LIFESTYLE / C1

Madame Feng Shui
aka Tessa tells all: How to enhance your wealth and happiness in the Year of the Boar.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Young Chinoys dream
big in Year of the Pig, or how the (T-)next generation is tinkering with old traditions with refreshing twists and turns to achieve success.

SUNDAY BIZ / B1

Retailers' best
sellers: What Filipinos bought with their hard-earned money in 2006.

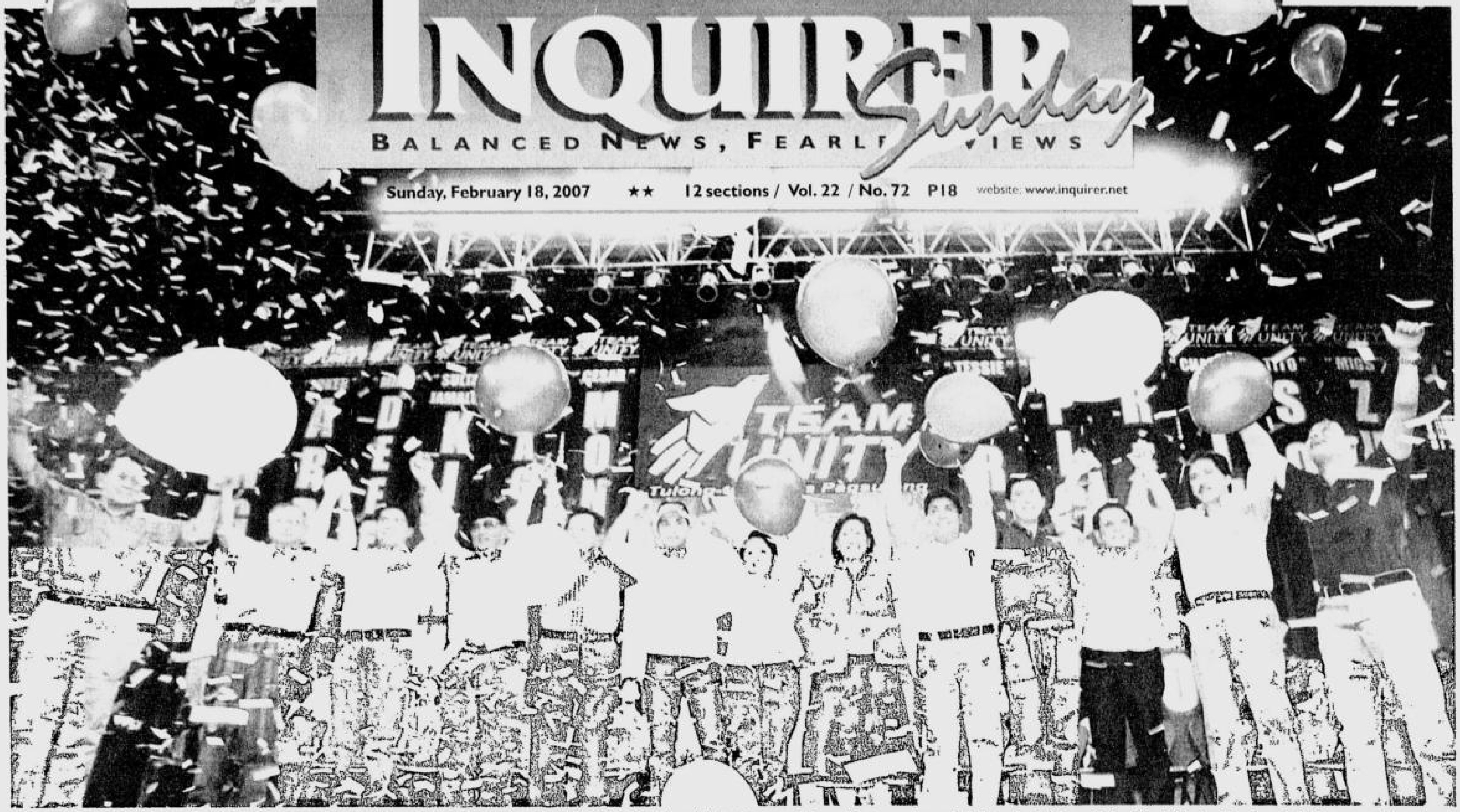
ENTERTAINMENT / G1

American Idol
picks Fil-Am one of top 24 candidates.

JOB *Market*

The career builder

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER *Sunday*
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, February 18, 2007 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 72 P18 website: www.inquirer.net



LIKE A ROUSING SPRING: At the Cebu Coliseum, President Arroyo launches the campaign of her handpicked senatorial candidates on her administration's Team Unity. She is flanked by, from left, Senators Edgardo Angara and Joker Arroyo, Mike Defensor, Sultan Jamalul Kiram III, Vic Magsaysay, Cesar Montano, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Prospero Pichay, Ralph Recto, Chavit Singson, Tito Sotto and Miguel Zubiri. LYN RILLON

It's a go for Team Unity

WHAT'S INSIDE

Anna Nicole Smith can't yet rest in peace. She left her entire estate to her son Daniel, according to her will released Friday. The problem is Daniel himself died last September. So, expect another legal battle for sure.

WORLD / A21

Supermom of Texas: Her 9 children are her trophies. All are college grads with her youngest twin sons graduates of West Point.

GLOBAL / A18

Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD: It's that time of the year again. The Lenten season starts on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21. More than disciplining the body with acts of penance, let us discipline our hearts to remove hatred, pride, greed and decide to love more.

OPINION / A10

Home are the sailors from sea of captivity

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Tarra V. Quismundo

MOTHERS HUGGED THEIR sons, wives kissed their husbands, and the kids held their fathers' hands.

This was the scene at Malacañang that greeted media people who covered the emotional family reunions of the 24 Filipino seamen held hostage for nearly a month in the deep remote jungles of Nigeria.

After the initial, tearful embraces at the Palace, the seafarers went to their tables and dined with their spouses, parents, and children.

The 24 seafarers looked relieved after their ordeal.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had flown to Manila from the Cebu launch of her senatorial ticket, made them wait up to about 10 p.m. before meeting with them.

HOME/ A8

HOME TO A VIP WELCOME: The 24 Filipino sailors held by Nigerian militants were treated to a pampered reception that started at the Naia when they arrived in the late afternoon all the way to the Palace where they were united with their families and the President hosted a reunion dinner. ROGER MARGALLO

Montano gives up ₱30M in ad, TV fees

By Nini Valera

NOW THAT HE IS RUNNING for senator, actor Cesar "Buboy" Montano will be losing at least P30 million in current endorsement deals with advertisers and at least P5 million in talent fees for a role in a new action-adventure television series.

Montano, 45, filed his candidacy Friday night, replacing Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla in the senatorial lineup of the administration's Team Unity ticket.

Like Manny Pacquiao, Kris Aquino, Sharon Cuneta, Aga Muhlach, among others, Montano is one of the most sought-after product endorsers in the country today, even if he has continued to shy away from appearing in ads for beer and cigarettes "as a matter of principle."

The multi-awarded actor, screenwriter and director currently endorses Touch Mobile, Nestlé Coffee Mate and Pao Liniment in print, radio, TV and billboard ads. He reportedly earns at least P8 million a year for each multi-media campaign mounted by these brands, or a total of P24 million for these three products.

The actor is also the image model for Hanford's underwear

MONTANO/ A6

Actor steals scene from teammates in Cebu

By Michael Lim Ubac

CEBU CITY—THE roar of approval, the confetti and the balloons told it all—an election campaign off to a rousing start. It was short and sweet, simple but festive.

And all eyes were on former Senators Vicente Sotto III and Tessie Oreta-Aquino when President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday proclaimed the 12 senatorial candidates of her Team Unity's launching in Cebu City.

Not even the presence on stage of the day's undisputed scene-stealer, movie actor-director Cesar Montano, whom Ms Arroyo had drafted into the ticket at the last minute, could dim the spotlight on the two former opposition figures.

After all, it hadn't been too long since Sotto and Oreta were standing side by side with the late movie king and opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 election.

Now, in another political extravaganza before 8,000 people at the Cebu Coliseum, the pair were standing alongside the woman whom Poe's allies had accused of cheating him of victory at the polls.

Oreta and Sotto individually walked to centerstage where a

IT'S A GO/ A6

THE UNKNOWNS

Senate bets run on God-centered politics

By Christian V. Esguerra

ELECTION 07

THE TALL MAN, GRINNING, OFfered handshakes to shoppers. A total stranger, he was welcomed anyway at the Greenhills "tiangge" in San Juan yesterday.

"I am Dr. Martin Bautista. I am running for senator under Ang Kapatiran (The Brotherhood) party. I am not a traditional politician," he told curious strangers huddled around him.

"Bautista who? Ang Kapatiran what?" was the quietly polite reaction of the shoppers. One went further and asked: "Do you have any chance of winning?"

Bautista, 44, knows only too well it's a tall order to go against a bunch of senatorial hopefuls parading celebrity wives, prominent names and bottomless campaign kitties.

But the gastro-enterologist would not have abandoned a lucrative medical practice in the United States if he was not con-

SENATE/ A8

Year of the Pig rings in the good life

By George Sison
Contributor

Editor's Note: George Sison is the author of the bestseller, "A Miracle Awaits You," and founder of the Temple of Prayer, Peace and Prosperity. He will soon launch "Feng Shui of the Mind... I am a Winner" in the Year of the Pig.

THE YEAR OF THE FIRE PIG STARTS today, Feb. 18, at 12:14 a.m., ringing in the good life, the days of wine and roses, and for some, *la vida loca* (the crazy life).

The Year of the Pig is synonymous to a year of plenty. Expect extravagance, chivalry, lav-

YEAR/ A6

SO MANY MEN, SO LITTLE TIME!

Website opens doors for dateless singles

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WIDOW HELEN BULADACO, 46, HAS NEVER been out on a date in her life.

But two days after Valentine's Day, she ended up having a rendezvous with at least 32 men from all walks of life—geeks, metrosexuals, yuppies,

WEBSITE/ A8

EZ2 (30) (5) | SIX DIGIT (3) (4) 2 3 (5) (2)

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
(9) (3) (5) | 5 3 7
(All in exact order)

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
(2) 4 18 27 38 42
P9,432,878.40

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/nation
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern section of Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY M TOLOSA, PDI RESEARCH/02/17/07 SOURCE PAGASA

UN prober listens to victims' kin

BAGUIO CITY—THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL rapporteur Philip Alston said he would do everything to bring to the attention of the international community the cases of human rights abuses presented to him during his visit to the Philippines.

"I had a very rough time just listening to the... stories," Alston said after meeting with the families of the victims, activists and indigenous people Friday.

Alston said his team would recommend that the International Peoples Tribunal in the Netherlands look into the situation in the Philippines.

Attempts should be made to pressure the government to stop the extrajudicial killings, he said.

Alston said he had told the government that his report "would not be worth anything unless it means something to the people of the Philippines" and to the people "who can make things happen."

"I cannot make it happen, all I can do is put up a set of recommendations," he said.

Alston and his team interviewed the victims and witnesses of human rights violations and extrajudicial killings. They also interviewed the victims' relatives and met members of rights groups like Hustisya, Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) and Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA).

The groups claimed to have documented at least 20 incidents of murder of indigenous peoples since 2001.

"We hope that Mr. Alston will come up with a real view and a credible assessment of the extrajudicial killings which he will present to the United Nations," said Dr. Constancio Claver, Bayan Muna-Kalinga chair and spokesperson of Hustisya.

Claver, who survived an assassination attempt in July 2006, said Alston had taken note his case because of the police's alleged involvement in the attack, where his wife, Alice Omengan-Claver, was killed.

The Commission on Human Rights in the Cordillera confirmed the claims of human rights advocates and the victims' families that some soldiers and policemen may have been involved in the killings.

Meanwhile, the chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) fisherfolk group said he would bring charges of political persecution against President Macapagal-Arroyo before the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Fernando Hicap said in his complaint that the government had been persecuting and harassing him and his family because of his leadership of Pamalakaya and his critical stance against Ms Arroyo.

He said his son Fryan, chair of the Sangguniang Kabataan in Castilla, Sorsogon, was invited for questioning by the military in January.

Hicap said security forces placed him under surveillance after he filed a P20-million libel suit against retired Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan in July 2006.

"As a result of continuous harassment and threats, and for their own safety and security, my family was forced to leave our home in Castilla," he said.

Hicap said the Karapatan human rights group would facilitate the filing of the case of political persecution against the Arroyo administration before the UN body.

Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Make Melo report public first–Biazon

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—The Melo Commission report on its investigation into the political killings in the country should be made public before copies of it are made available to the European Union, said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

"I think it should be the Filipino people [who] should know first [the] contents, the conclusions and the findings of the Melo Commission," Biazon told reporters here.

Biazon, a member of Philippine Military Class 1961, was interviewed at the PMA alumni homecoming here on Saturday.

He said the issues that were raised in the report, like the alleged involvement of soldiers in the killings, should be resolved "in order to protect the name and dignity of the whole Armed Forces of the Philippines."

He said among the victims of the non-disclosure of the Melo Commission report were "the soldiers who are fighting and giving up their lives for this country, and who [are] being stigmatized by whatever is being alleged in the [report]."

Biazon said the Melo Commission report was going the way of the delayed release of a similar report by the Mayuga Commission which looked into the involvement of the military in election cheating.

The Melo Commission's findings were submitted to Ms Arroyo last month by former Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Melo, the commission's chair.

But while it has yet to be made public, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said Ms Arroyo had approved its transmission to the European Union and to the visiting United Nations special rapporteur Philip Alston.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) deplored the delay in the release of the Melo report, saying it "highlights once more this administration's policy of governance by exigency and spin."

Robert Abaño and Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

20 bullets found in US-bound solon's bag

By Cenon B. Bibe Jr. and Tarra Quismundo

EAGLE-EYED.

Airport police stopped Laguna Rep. Danton Bueser from boarding a flight for San Francisco Friday night after bullets and a pistol magazine were found inside his bag as it passed the final X-ray check at the Centennial Terminal of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Bueser, who said he did not own the 20 cal.-380 bullets and the magazine, had already gotten past two other X-ray machines when he was stopped at the final security check manned by Philippine Airlines personnel.

It was 9:22 p.m. when PAL X-ray operator Fernando Rotoni saw the ammunition inside the small brown "rectangular bag" of Bueser as it passed through his machine.

Rotoni told the INQUIRER that he then informed the PAL bag inspector about the "obvious threat."

As standard operating procedure, Rotoni said, the PAL inspector called the technicians of the two other X-ray machines manned by police personnel and together they opened the bag.

About six policemen, apart from PAL personnel, were present when the bag was inspected.

It was then that the bullets and a "loaded" magazine were found inside the congressman's carry-on bag. The bullets were tucked in a side pocket.

The legislator was taken to the office of the Aviation Security Group. Police reported that the magazine was "empty."

Bueser, 56, of Laguna's 3rd District, was to take PAL Flight PR 114 for Los Angeles. He said he was scheduled to address an organization of California-based constituents.

"It's not mine. I don't know who put it there," Bueser told the INQUIRER when reached by phone yesterday.

"Those are not mine because I passed the first and second X-rays and those were not detected. That's why I was surprised when [the bullets and magazine] were found," Bueser said.

Inspector Santos Guanzon, duty officer at the 1st Police Center for Aviation Security (PCAS), said in a report that the legislator was "lawfully arrested after being apprised of his constitutional rights."

Said Senior Supt. Efren Labiang, chief of the 1st PCAS: "Maybe he just forgot that those bullets were there because we know that he is a busy man. We think he did not intend to carry those bullets. It was an honest mistake."

Labiang said that after routine questioning of Bueser, police "turned over custody" of the legislator to Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay. Bueser said he was the one who called Pichay and informed him about the incident.

Aviation police are preparing to charge Bueser with violation of Republic Act No. 8294, or the Illegal Possession of Ammunition and Explosives, Labiang said.

Hollywood to make film on Abu Sayyaf

By Alcuin Papa

IT'S NOW THE SILVER SCREEN for the once obscure Abu Sayyaf group.

And no less than Hollywood itself has taken notice of the former ragtag group of bandits which gained international notoriety after kidnapping foreign tourists from two resorts in Malaysia and the Philippines.

Renowned Hollywood film producer Jerry Bruckheimer is set to produce a movie on the Abu Sayyaf group, a US entertainment industry website recently said.

According to Variety.com, website of the popular Variety magazine, Bruckheimer acquired the rights to film "Jihadists in Paradise," an article written by Mark Bowden and published in the Atlantic Monthly magazine. Variety magazine is considered the in-house publication of Hollywood.

Bowden, author of the book "Black Hawk Down" which was also made into a movie produced also by Bruckheimer, is set to write the new movie's screenplay.

"'Jihadists in Paradise' details the emergence in the Philippines of the Islamic terrorist faction Abu Sayyaf and one of its leaders, Aldam Tilao (alias Abu Sabaya).

Tilao put his group on the international map by sneaking by boat into a diving resort in Palawan and taking 20 hostages, including three Americans. He and his armed thugs later beheaded one of the Americans and dragged the other two—a missionary couple—across the jungles for a year and a half," the article said.

It further said Tilao was eventually tracked down and killed after a long search by the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) and Filipino military forces.

Bruckheimer is well-known as a producer of big-budget films like "Armageddon," "Pirates of the Caribbean," "The Rock," and "Pearl Harbor." He is also the producer of the popular TV series "The Amazing Race" and the "CSI" series.

Bruckheimer's project was immediately met with some concern by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Task Force Comet chief Brig. Gen. Ruben Rafael said he hoped the movie would portray "truthfully" the real nature of the Abu Sayyaf.

"I hope the film has a message for the public, especially the youth, that evil acts should never be emulated," Rafael told the INQUIRER.

He also said the film must not glorify the bandit group and make its members heroes.

"That's a different story (if the film makes portrays them as heroes)."

Task Force Comet, based in Sulu province, is a unit solely dedicated to pursue and neutralize the Abu Sayyaf.

United Auctioneers, Inc.
INSPECTION DATES: FEB. 19, 20 & 21, 2007
INSPECTION & REGISTRATION STARTS TOMORROW!!!
ALL MUST GO!!!
BEST EQUIPMENT PRICE QUALITY DEAL!!!
"NO MINIMUM PRICE"
3-DAY PARADE AUCTION
FEBRUARY 22, 23 & 24, 2007
SALE START AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
TCM 890
WITH RIPPER
MITSUBISHI MG400
KOMATSU D85A
MITSUBISHI MF40W ASPHALT FINISHER
LATE MODEL
ISUZU 10W ALUMINUM VAN
ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCK
ISUZU FTR DROPSIDE
ALSO AVAILABLE: LOCALLY ACQUIRED VEHICLE
FUSO CANTER CONCRETE PUMP
ISUZU CITY BUS
TOYOTA LANDCRUISER
The FINEST SOURCE for your BUSINESS NEEDS with OPTIMUM RETURN!
BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, TEL. NOS: (047) 252-1129 * 252-1155 TO 58 * (02) 920-0810
SUBIC BAY FREEFORT, PHILIPPINES (02) 711-5270 * CEL NOS: (0917) 7262824 * (0917) 8187000
FAX NO.: (047) 252-5569 E-MAIL: uasubic@uai.gotdns.com * WEBSITE: www.uasubic.gotdns.com
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT FINANCING AVAILABLE THRU ORIX METRO LEASING & FINANCING CORP. TEL. (02) [illegible]

MODENA

Envoy Modena dies at 58

ANTONIO C. MODENA, Philippine ambassador to Israel, died yesterday from complications related to lung cancer. He was 58.

Modena, a journalist before he entered the foreign service, is best remembered for his tough, unconventional crusade to uphold the rights of overseas Filipino workers.

Born in Romblon and educated at the University of the Philippines, Modena stirred up a storm in Tel Aviv in 2005 when he compared the treatment of Filipinos by Israeli immigration police to that suffered by Jews at the hands of the Nazi secret police. His 'undiplomatic' remarks almost got him declared persona non grata in Tel-Aviv, but OFWs cheered him for standing up for their cause.

He is survived by his wife Charity and children Aurora Khaylon, Alistair Sulayman and Antonio Kudarat, and grandchildren.

His body lies at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

NEW REPUBLIC
Latvia has marked its proclamation as a republic with nationwide celebrations spearheaded by its first woman president, Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga (center), shown here with her husband, Imants Freiberga (right), and Latvia's honorary consul in the Philippines, Robert Lim Joseph, who visited Latvia during a recent gathering of diplomatic and international leaders.

Erap should be freed in the meantime–Villar

By Dona Pazzibugan and Christine O. Avendaño

DETAINED FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada should be temporarily freed until the Sandiganbayan rules on his plunder case, said the man who railroaded Estrada's impeachment six years ago.

Senate President Manuel Villar Jr., who is seeking reelection as an independent aligned with the opposition, said in a television interview he felt "bad" that Estrada had been detained for the last six years.

The House of Representatives impeached Estrada on corruption charges in November 2000. As Speaker at the time, Villar speedily transmitted the articles of impeachment to the Senate, sweeping aside the vehement objections of Estrada's House allies.

Estrada was later ousted in a popular revolt in January 2001 after an aborted impeachment trial in the Senate.

Villar has since made peace with Estrada, visiting him in his Tanay, Rizal, resthouse where the former President is being held under house arrest.

"As the one who impeached him, I feel bad about it. It's been six years, he's still in jail. It's unfair," Villar said over ANC network on Friday night.

"*Dapat tapusin na, o palabasin na muna* (The case should be finished now, or else release him in the meantime)," Villar added.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has said she will grant an executive pardon should the Sandiganbayan find Estrada guilty of plunder.

Villar won a Senate seat under Ms Arroyo's People Power Coalition ticket in May 2001.

He said he chose to run as an independent this time because he could not abide Malacañang's efforts at overhauling the Constitution and abolishing the Senate and form a unicameral parliamentary system of government.

PMA address

Yesterday in Baguio City, Villar made no specific mention of the forthcoming midterm elections or of the "Hello Garci" scandal but his message was clear: The military must stay out of the May polls.

"For the sake of democracy and our nation, the military organization … must rise above the noise and the tug-of-war in politics. It can only be a stabilizing force if it refuses to be infected by the destructive virus of partisanship," Villar told active and retired military officers here yesterday.

Speaking at the alumni homecoming of the Philippine Military Academy at Fort Del Pilar, Villar said soldiers may have their own political preferences but must adhere to their "code of impartiality" in exercising their political rights.

"This professionalism … must be upheld at all times," he said.

He also said soldiers were protectors of the people under the Constitution and should place the country's good "above ethnic, regional and personal interests."

Villar avoided directly referring to the May 14 elections but the timing of his speech (just a few days after the election campaign season began) and the venue he chose for his message (a military gathering) left little doubt he was appealing for strict military neutrality in the coming polls.

His speech also coincided with renewed concerns in political circles that the polls might be marred by the widespread fraud that had characterized past elections in the country.

The military has yet to live down accusations that some of its senior officers were involved in cheating during the 2004 presidential election, as indicated in the so-called "Hello Garci" tapes. The tapes were recordings of supposed conversations between President Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano dealing with alleged tampering of election results.

Cha-cha recalled

Villar is seeking reelection as an independent aligned with the United Opposition, recently renamed the Genuine Opposition (GO).

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. recently issued guidelines to military units barring soldiers from campaigning for election candidates. He also barred candidates from campaigning inside military camps.

Villar also spoke about his efforts to oppose Malacañang-backed moves in recent months to amend the Constitution and abolish the Senate—remarks that did not sit well with Esperon.

Villar stressed that the Senate "has always been the watchdog of the performance of the executive branch."

"Unfortunately, there are those who are not comfortable with the independence of the Senate," he said, adding that its efforts to expose anomalies in government had been perceived as "obstructionist."

ATENEO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & PUBLIC HEALTH

The new ASMPH facility, adjacent to its training hospital, The Medical City along Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

ASMPH

Aligned with the needs of the country, the latest developments in health, and the highest standards of health education worldwide, the ASMPH offers a DUAL DEGREE MD/MASTER IN MANAGEMENT program for the best and the brightest students. Students who dream of becoming doctors and leaders, who bring healing and transformation through health. The school opens its doors to its first batch of students in June 2007.

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL MARCH 3, 2007

For admissions information
email asmph@admu.edu.ph
or call (+63-2)899-4589

www.ateneo.edu

SMART GOLD

GET TWO PHONES WITH ONE PLAN AND KISS OTHER OFFERS GOODBYE.

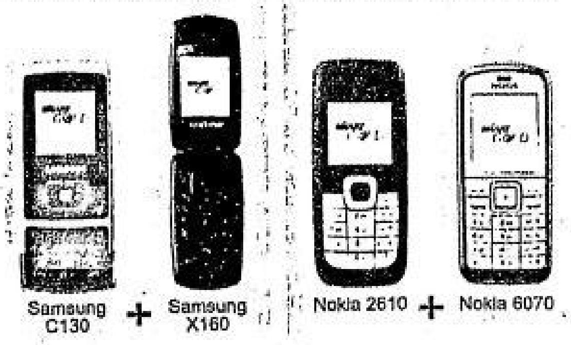
Subscribe now and avail of these irresistible Valentine Bundles.

1 Get two phones FREE with SMART Gold Plan 800 and 1200.

- Prepaid load for free phones is not automatically charged to your postpaid line. Must be purchased separately.
- Subscriber has the option to get two units of the same handset.
- Each handset bundle comes with one SMART Gold SIM and one SMART Buddy SIM.

FREE at Plan 800

FREE at Plan 1200



Samsung C130 + Samsung X160

Nokia 2610 + Nokia 6070

2 Get huge discounts for a pair of handsets with SMART Gold Plan 500 and 800.

HANDSET PAIRS	PLAN 500	PLAN 800
Samsung C130 & Samsung C130	₱1,400	FREE
Samsung X160 & Samsung X160	₱3,100	FREE
Samsung C130 & Samsung X160	₱2,200	FREE
Nokia 2610 & Nokia 2610	₱4,300	₱1,300
Nokia 6070 & Nokia 6070	₱6,700	₱3,700
Nokia 2610 & Nokia 6070	₱5,500	₱2,500

Avail of our individual handset offers FREE at higher plans.

Nokia 6151 FREE at Plan 1200

Sony Ericsson K610i FREE at Plan 1200

Nokia N70 Music Edition FREE at Plan 1800

Sony Ericsson K800i FREE at Plan 2500

Make the SMART move now!

DAHIL SMART TAYO

Subscriptions are subject to a 24-month lock-in period. SMART's credit guidelines will apply for all applications. For more details, call *888 through your SMART cellphone, 888-1111 through landline or visit any SMART Wireless Center. Applications now accepted online at www.smart.com.ph/gold Check your SMART Gold Bills at the same site.

See flyers for details. Promo runs from Feb. 10 to Mar. 31, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0585, Series of 2007

Comelec delists TUCP, 32 other party-list groups

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS delisted 33 party-list groups from those accredited to participate in the May 14 elections for their failure to field a candidate or to win a seat in the previous general elections.

Among those delisted and had their registrations canceled by the Comelec, through Resolution No. 7819, were the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, Philippine Association of Retired Persons, Tribal Communities Association of the Philippines, Alyansa ng May-Kapansanan sa Pilipinas and Pinoy Overseas Party.

Under Republic Act No. 7941, or the Party-list System Act of 1995, a party-list group will lose its accreditation if it fails to participate in two consecutive elections or fails to obtain at least two percent of all votes casts under the party-list system, also in two successive elections.

As of Feb. 12 this year, the Comelec had accredited 30 new party-list groups of the 140 more that filed papers.

The delisted party-list groups were among the 77 that participated in the 2004 elections. But only 16 party-list groups won and got 24 seats in the House of Representatives.

In an interview, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. admitted delays in approving the accreditation of the groups that had registered.

One group, Ang Ladlad, which was still not accredited, decided to field its president and nominee, Danton Remoto, for the Senate instead.

Abalos, however, said the Comelec would allow those still without accreditation to campaign.

Abalos said many groups faced disqualification because they could not prove that they represented marginalized sectors, lacked the political machinery or did not have local chapters.

"Some party-list groups were the product of drinking sessions, whose members only decided to form a group on a whim and have strange objectives," he said.

On Friday, the Comelec was asked to disqualify three leftist party-list groups—Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela—for alleged ties with the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Widows of two murdered former NPA rebels filed the petition.

The three groups, however, accused the administration of concocting the disqualification case.

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas internal deputy secretary general Willy Marbella, a nominee of Anakpawis, said the cases were "pure political harassment plain and simple."

"We urge Chairman Abalos to immediately dismiss such nuisance motions and complaints against our progressive party-lists," added Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, who remains under government custody for alleged rebellion.

The Partido ng Manggagawa, which has one seat in the House, said the Comelec should instead purge party-list groups which were being sponsored by Malacañang to ease out leftist lawmakers.

Gerry Rivera, PM vice chair, also questioned several accredited party-list groups such as Bigkis Pinoy, which he said was backed by Efraim Genuino of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo; the Alliance of Nationalism and Democracy, an anticommunist group allegedly supported by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales; Biyaheng Pinoy, one of whose nominees is Abalos' brother, and Kasangga sa Kaunlaran, which is identified with a sister-in-law of the President.

Rivera claimed another group, Kakusa, would serve as the vehicle for the return of convicted rapist and former congressman Romeo Jalosjos to Congress.

Pre-need party-list group goes on stump

VICTIMS OF CASH-strapped pre-need companies now also want to be represented in Congress.

Yesterday, the PEP Coalition launched its bid to win congressional seats as a party-list group.

In their national assembly held yesterday in Pasig City, PEP Coalition president Philip Piccio said that if they won seats in the House of Representatives, they would be the first consumer rights protection group in Congress.

PEP Coalition obtained its accreditation as a party-list group from the Commission on Elections on Feb. 2.

Claiming a membership of half a million, Piccio said they would push for laws to protect buyers of pre-need products.

"We will push for a pre-need law so that buyers of pre-need products will be assured that their money is safe and they will get back what they were promised. We also want to penalize heavily any corporation that would defraud its own clients," Piccio told the INQUIRER.

PEP Coalition was formed almost two years ago by parents who bought educational plans from Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) which later declared it could no longer pay the tuition of their children. *Alcuin Papa*

BUSINESS & LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

INTERNET CAFÉ Package
(with Franchising option)

We provide the following products & assistance:
- computer hardware, software & related equipment;
- technical services & related supports;
- even FINANCING ASSISTANCE for qualified proponents.

e-Business INSTANT NEGOSYO Package*
(a multi-billion peso daily reloading industry)
Offers home-based DEALERSHIP & SUB-DEALERSHIP
for a minimum investment of P29T*
w/ FREE Personal Computer for online monitoring
*for sub-dealership

Also available at Discounted Price & Freebies:
- Computer hardware & peripherals
- Computer Software
- Laptops & Notebooks
- Computer Printers
- other Office Equipment needs

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICANTS
FOR OUR NATIONWIDE EXPANSION
(Applicants from SUBIC, BICOL, CEBU, DAVAO, etc. are welcome)
For available positions, pls. log on to http://www.univrsgroup.com/#

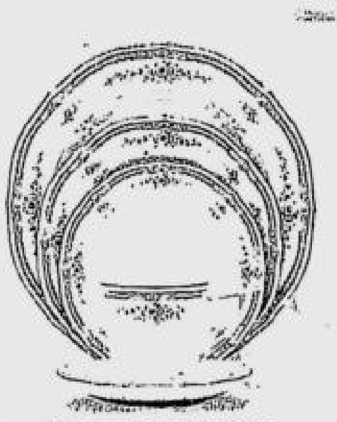
to know more, pls call:
UNIVERSAL VALUE & REWARDS SOLUTIONS, INC.
Landline: (02)638-3374, (02)637-1052
Telefax: (02)638-0117
Luzon: (0928)257-9382; (0918)467-5390; (0906)749-1386
Viz/Min: (0922)459-5903; (0919)528-5957

CLEARANCE SALE!
• on seconds •

SAVE UP TO 70% ON SELECTED ITEMS

EXTENDED UP TO MAR. 4, 2007!*
9 am to 4 pm DAILY

FREE!!
1 pc. SNACK BOWL or
1 pc. SHAKER
for every Php1,000.00 worth of purchase
in a single receipt. (CASH BASIS ONLY)



More patterns available

To be held at:
Noritake WAREHOUSE
J.P. Rizal Street, Concepcion, Marikina City
Tel Nos.: 948-4876; 941-6829; 942-1185;
(941-7295 sat. & sun.)
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0013 Series of 2007
* As approved by DTI-NCR

Email: marketing@noritake.com.ph
noritake@globelines.com.ph
Website: www.noritake.com.ph

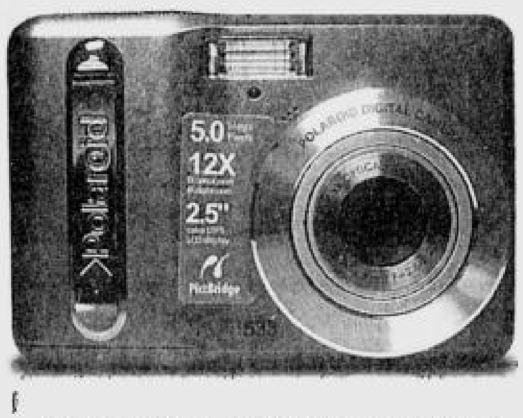
Export Quality Sets Now Available
at Rustan's · SM Ortigas, North Edsa, Makati, Las Piñas, SM Cebu
· Robinsons Ermita, Robinson's Galleria, Alabang · Metro Market Market

Noritake
The Finest Name in Chinaware

Polaroid

Click Away to Getaway!

Purchase these feature-packed Polaroid Digital Cameras and get a chance to win any of our fabulous prizes:
1 Grand prize winner of a trip for 2 to Disneyland (Hong Kong)
1 winner of a Polaroid 32" (81.28cm) LCD TV
5 winners of Polaroid portable dvd's
5 winners of Polaroid PDC3080 cameras



12 months 0% INTEREST
5.0 Mega Pixel
P667 per month
SRP 7,995
FREE 512MB SD Card

POLAROID DIGITAL
10
12X
2.4"
Polaroid
i1032 DIGITAL CAMERA

12 months 0% INTEREST
10.0 Mega Pixel
P1,250 per month
SRP 14,995
FREE 1GB SD Card and
Rechargeable and Battery

Polaroid
7.0
12X
2.5"
PictBridge
i733

12 months 0% INTEREST
7.0 Mega Pixel
P999 per month
SRP 11,995
FREE 1GB SD Card

PROMO MECHANICS:
1. This promo is open only to buyers of Polaroid products from Philippine based resellers with valid Philippine address.
2. For every purchase of the following Polaroid products, customers will be entitled to a specific number of raffle coupons...
   Polaroid Digital Camera i533 - 1 raffle coupon
   Polaroid Digital Camera i733 - 3 raffle coupon
   Polaroid Digital Camera i1032 - 5 raffle coupon
3. Customers may claim their coupons at the redemption booth of the store where the purchase was made upon presentation of receipt.
4. The customer shall fill out the raffle coupon with his/her complete name, address, telephone number (if any), affix his/her signature and the name of store where purchase was made, then drop in designated drop boxes located within the store.
5. The promo duration is from Feb. 15 to April 30, 2007.
6. Deadline for dropping of entries for the raffle draw is at the closing hour of April 30, 2007.
7. The raffle draw will be held at the headquarters of Millennium Computer Tech. Corp.
8. Prizes at stake:
   1 Grand Prize winner of a trip for 2 to Hongkong Disneyland with 3 days & 2 nights accommodation with airfare.
   1 winner of Polaroid 32"(81.28cm) LCD TV
   5 winners of Polaroid Portable DVD's
   5 winners of Polaroid PDC 3080 digital cameras
9. A participant can win only once, if a name wins more than once he gets the bigger prize.
10. All prizes are tax free and are not convertible to cash.
11. Travel documents, taxes and other related expenses shall be shoulder by the winner. Trips to HK Disneyland must be availed within 6 months from the date prize is claimed.
12. Winners will be notified via registered mail, e-mail and shall be posted on all participating outlets.
13. All winners must present any valid ID together with letter of notification and the winning claim stub
   • Metro Manila winners must claim at MCTC headquarters at #53 Tangali St., San Jose, Quezon City
   • Provincial winners must claim his/her prize at the outlet where purchase was made
14. Prizes not claimed within sixty(60) days after receipt of notification/registered mail shall be forfeited in favor of Millennium Computer Tech. Corp. with prior approval from the DTI.
15. Employees of MCTC, Advertising Agency and participating resellers including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 0618 series of 2007

Authorized Participating Dealers:

5th AVE, Tel. 912-8881, edmundt@e_avesco.com | Parksquare Makati, Shangri-la Edsa, SM Megamall, Robinson's Ermita, SM North Edsa
Accent Micro, Tel. 637-7975, amp_ne@ampc.com.ph | Ortigas Center, SM Mega Mall, SM North Edsa, SM MOA, Festival Alabang, Parksquare Makati, SM Cebu, SM, Sta. Rosa, SM Pampanga
Complink Marketing, Tel. 632-9896-97, sales@complink.com.ph | Robinsons Galleria, SM North Edsa, Park Square 1, SM MOA, Bacoor, SM Megamall, SM Southmall
Kameraworld, Tel. 637-7975, info@kameraworld.com.ph | Greenbelt Mall, SM North Edsa, Harrison Plaza, Ali Mall, SM Mega Mall, New Farmers Plaza, 'Robinson's Galleria Dealers Sales Dpt., Shangri-la Plaza, Tutuban Center Mall, Robinson's Ermita, SM Pampanga, SM Manila, SM Cebu City, SM Sucat, SM Bicutan, Galleria Disk, I-pose Greenhills, Gateway Cubao, Facilities Center, SM Mega Supermarket, SM Makati Supermarket, SM Manila Supermarket, SM Valenzuela, People Support, Vito Cruz, SM San Lazaro, SM MOA, SM Sta. Rosa, Casman
New Canary, SM North Edsa- 9269002, SM Sta. Mesa, SM Megamall, SM Makati, SM Harrison Plaza, SM Cubao, SM Las Pinas, SM Bacoor, SM Fairview, SM Manila, SM Bicutan, SM Dasmarinas, SM Baguio, SM Marilao, SM Lucena, SM Batangas, SM Sucat, SM San Lazaro, SM MOA
PC Live, Tel. 634-1294, pcl_mega@ampc.com.ph | SM Megamall, SM, North Edsa, SM MOA
VillMan Computer Systems, Inc., Tel. 425-1006 to 09, sales@villman.com | Eastwood City Libis, Market Market!, SM Mall of Asia, Gateway, Makati-Sunvar, SM Megamall, Katipunan, Makati-Ayala, SM City North Edsa, West Ave., Park Square, Cabanatuan

Exclusive Philippine Distributor:
Millennium Computer Technology Corporation
polaroid@millennium.com.ph

DFA warns Pinoys in Canada about text scam using GMA

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFfairs has warned overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) about a new text scam apparently emanating from the Philippines and circulating in Canada informing the victim that he or she had won money in a special raffle draw allegedly sponsored by the "GMA Foundation of the Philippines for Overseas Filipinos."

The DFA issued the warning after receiving a report from Philippine consul general in Vancouver Minerva Jean Falcon that OFWs working in British Columbia had been receiving the text scam messages.

Falcon said the text scam uses the following names and contact numbers:

Special Projects Division
GMA Foundation of the Philippines
San Rafael Annex Building
Malacañang, Manila , Philippines
Secretary Nimfa Salazar, Tel# 0921-712-6658 ;

Department of Finance
Agripina Circle , Manila
Secretary, Atty. Patricia Pineda, Tel# 0921-834-0905
Jo Ann B. Castillo, Sec. Of Atty. Pineda, Tel# 0921-610-2908 ;

Ramon Tiongco Uy
Western Union Bank Representative in the Philippines
Western Money Transfer, Manila , Tel# 0915-214-8547
50 M. Hizon St . Caloocan City

In its investigation, Falcon said the modus operandi of the perpetrators was to send a series of text messages to their intended victims and even provide the phone numbers where they can be contacted.

"The perpetrators engage the victims in phone conversations meant to convince them to wire-transfer a so-called processing fee, which would range from US$400 to US$1,000. The victims are also asked to provide their passport and driver's license numbers," she said.

The DFA has informed other missions abroad about the scam in order to alert OFWs in their respective jurisdictions. It also advised OFWs to refrain from responding to such text messages, and to immediately report them to the nearest Philippine Embassy or consulate.

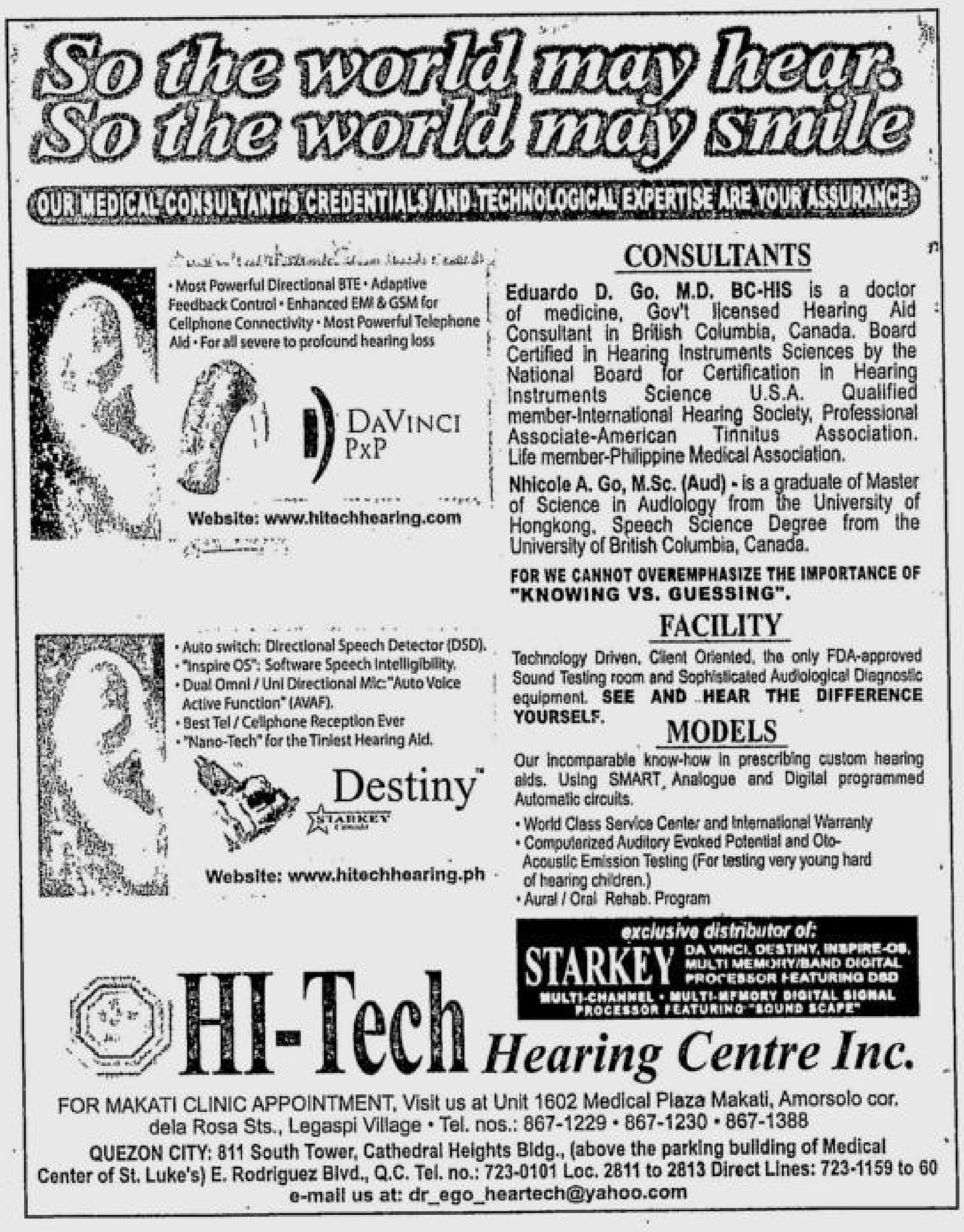
Meanwhile, in Italy, Philippine Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier told OFWs who wish to work in Italy to comply with the requirements not only of the Italian government for the issuance of work visas but also of the Philippine government.

Lhuillier issued the warning following reports that some OFWs who had been issued work visas by the Italian Embassy in Manila were prevented from leaving the country because of their failure to comply with Philippine requirements.

The government requires the prospective Italian employer of an OFW to accomplish the following documents and personally submit them to the labor office of the Philippine Embassy for verification and processing:

- A "Deed of Undertaking" (or Atto di Sottoscrizione) indicating the terms and conditions of employment.
- Supporting documents which include the original copy of the Nulla Osta (to be presented only as reference); three photocopies of the Nulla Osta; three photocopies of any document issued by the Italian government showing the name, picture and signature of the employer (such as his/her Carta d'Identita, passport or driver's license); three photocopies of the passport of the Filipino worker to be hired.

If the Italian employer is unable to personally come to the embassy, he/she may send a representative with an "Authorization" (or Autorizzazione) from the employer empowering the representative to act on his behalf, and three photocopies of any valid document of the employer's representative.



So the world may hear.
So the world may smile
OUR MEDICAL CONSULTANT'S CREDENTIALS AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE ARE YOUR ASSURANCE

• Most Powerful Directional BTE • Adaptive Feedback Control • Enhanced EMI & GSM for Cellphone Connectivity • Most Powerful Telephone Aid • For all severe to profound hearing loss
DaVinci PxP
Website: www.hitechhearing.com

• Auto switch: Directional Speech Detector (DSD).
• "Inspire OS": Software Speech Intelligibility.
• Dual Omni / Uni Directional Mic: "Auto Voice Active Function" (AVAF).
• Best Tel / Cellphone Reception Ever
• "Nano-Tech" for the Tiniest Hearing Aid.
Destiny
Website: www.hitechhearing.ph

CONSULTANTS
Eduardo D. Go, M.D. BC-HIS is a doctor of medicine, Gov't licensed Hearing Aid Consultant in British Columbia, Canada. Board Certified in Hearing Instruments Sciences by the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instruments Science U.S.A. Qualified member-International Hearing Society, Professional Associate-American Tinnitus Association. Life member-Philippine Medical Association.
Nhicole A. Go, M.Sc. (Aud) - is a graduate of Master of Science in Audiology from the University of Hongkong, Speech Science Degree from the University of British Columbia, Canada.
FOR WE CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF "KNOWING VS. GUESSING".

FACILITY
Technology Driven, Client Oriented, the only FDA-approved Sound Testing room and Sophisticated Audiological Diagnostic equipment. SEE AND HEAR THE DIFFERENCE YOURSELF.

MODELS
Our incomparable know-how in prescribing custom hearing aids. Using SMART, Analogue and Digital programmed Automatic circuits.
• World Class Service Center and International Warranty
• Computerized Auditory Evoked Potential and Oto-Acoustic Emission Testing (For testing very young hard of hearing children.)
• Aural / Oral Rehab. Program

exclusive distributor of:
STARKEY DA VINCI, DESTINY, INSPIRE-OS, MULTI MEMORY/BAND DIGITAL PROCESSOR FEATURING DSD
MULTI-CHANNEL • MULTI-MEMORY DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSOR FEATURING "SOUND SCAPE"

HI-Tech Hearing Centre Inc.
FOR MAKATI CLINIC APPOINTMENT, Visit us at Unit 1602 Medical Plaza Makati, Amorsolo cor. dela Rosa Sts., Legaspi Village • Tel. nos.: 867-1229 • 867-1230 • 867-1388
QUEZON CITY: 811 South Tower, Cathedral Heights Bldg., (above the parking building of Medical Center of St. Luke's) E. Rodriguez Blvd., Q.C. Tel. no.: 723-0101 Loc. 2811 to 2813 Direct Lines: 723-1159 to 60
e-mail us at: dr_ego_heartech@yahoo.com

The Gambia marks 42 years of freedom

THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA CELEBRATES today its 42nd year of independence from British rule.

Situated along the Atlantic coast of West Africa some 9,000 miles from the Philippines, efforts initiated in June 2005 resulted in the setting up of an honorary consulate in Manila and by the state visit of President Alhaji Dr. Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh.

In June 2006, The Gambia hosted the African Union Summit, which saw the attendance of 43 African presidents, kings and heads of government.

The success of the summit demonstrated the influence of Jammeh on the African continent on which the Philippines is counting to obtain permanent observer status in the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) as promised by the Gambian president to President Macapagal-Arroyo during his state visit. Jammeh had once served as vice chair of the OIC.

The Gambian consulate in Manila, the Gambian Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Philippine consulate in Banjul, the Gambian capital, in coordination with Gambian and Philippine trade institutions and the private sector are working to establish distribution centers in Manila and Banjul to market each other's products.

Cop seeks wife's rescue from brutal Kuwaiti employer

DIGOS CITY—A POLICEMAN FROM STA. Maria, Davao del Sur, has sought the immediate assistance of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to rescue his wife from her employer in Kuwait.

PO3 Wendell Avila said he had reason to believe his wife's life was in danger.

He said his 33-year-old wife Violeta often called him up complaining of physical abuse by her employer. She told him her male employer had also tried to sexually attack her.

Avila said he initially tried to contact the agency that sent Violeta to Kuwait on Jan. 8 but nobody picked up the phone at the Davao City office of Lescil Manpower Agency.

Ailyn Sapasap, OWWA officer in charge in Davao City, said she also could not contact the recruitment agency to find out Violeta's address in Kuwait.

"Nonetheless, we already forwarded the case to the OWWA office in Kuwait for immediate action," she said.

According to OWWA, Violeta's case was among at least eight complaints of maltreatment and sexual harassment it had received since January.

Another case involved 22-year-old Geraldine Apos, a resident of Matanao, Davao del Sur, who managed to escape her abusive employer and come home. Apos, who said she could no longer endure the treatment she got from her employers, did not dare to finish her two-year contract in Kuwait.

"I ate only once a day, slept at 4 a.m. then worked again two hours later," she recounted.

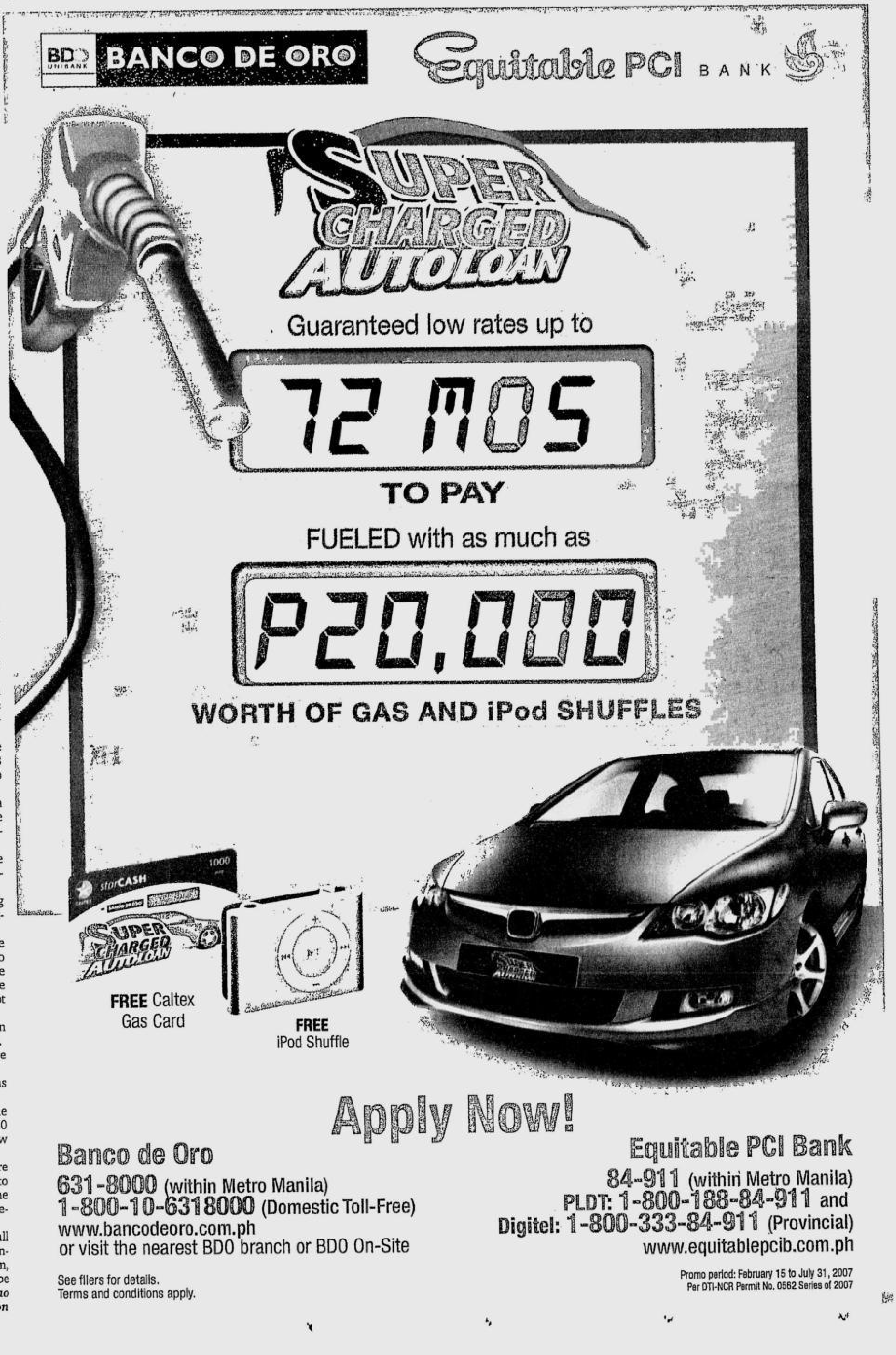
"I was very thankful to get out of there alive," she said.

In Kuwait, she said, "maids are regarded as slaves."

Meanwhile, special envoy to the Middle East Roy Cimatu warned that about 25,000 Filipinos in Lebanon may be in danger anew from the impending outbreak of a civil war.

"There is an emerging political conflict there which is spiraling from a series of conflicts into a civil war," said Cimatu, who attended the Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming in Baguio City on Saturday.

He said the DFA was coordinating with all Filipino organizations there as well as nongovernment organizations so the repatriation, if and when it becomes necessary, would be easy. *Eldie S. Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao and Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



Guaranteed low rates up to
72 MOS
TO PAY
FUELED with as much as
P20,000
WORTH OF GAS AND iPod SHUFFLES

FREE Caltex Gas Card
FREE iPod Shuffle

Apply Now!

Banco de Oro
631-8000 (within Metro Manila)
1-800-10-6318000 (Domestic Toll-Free)
www.bancodeoro.com.ph
or visit the nearest BDO branch or BDO On-Site

See fliers for details.
Terms and conditions apply.

Equitable PCI Bank
84-911 (within Metro Manila)
PLDT: 1-800-188-84-911 and
Digitel: 1-800-333-84-911 (Provincial)
www.equitablepcib.com.ph

Promo period: February 15 to July 31, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0562 Series of 2007

Montano gives up ₱30M . . .

From page A1

line, appearing in print and billboard advertising for the brand. He also endorses Mega Sardines and Nature's Spring, a brand of purified water, in print and billboard ads. He supposedly earns at least P3 million a year for a print and billboard campaign.

In his ads, Montano is often cast as a working class hero, an image built up to the hilt particularly by Touch Mobile, whose advertising slogan, "Power to the People," captures exactly the actor's blue collar persona.

Montano was also set to star in GMA 7's "Lupin" with Richard Gutierrez. The series would have been his television comeback after his long-running sitcom with Maricel Soriano, "Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis" (later retitled "Kung Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis") was canceled two years ago after a seven-year run on ABS-CBN. His talent fee for "Lupin," a sleek heist drama, is reported to be at least P5 million.

The actor was also in negotiations with Hollywood producer Lawrence Bender ("Pulp Fiction," "Kill Bill 1 & 2," "Reservoir Dogs," among other Quentin Tarrantino films) for a possible acting job or screenwriting deal.

Great raid

Montano appeared in the Hollywood film "The Great Raid," released in 2005, about a rescue operation conducted by American soldiers with the help of Filipino guerillas in a Nueva Ecija Japanese prison camp during World War II.

Montano has also produced, directed and starred in "Panaghoy sa Suba," an award-winning entry to the 2005 Metro Manila Film Festival, and in "Ligalig," a 2006 filmfest entry. Both movies did not make money at the tills, but earned for Montano the respect of the local movie industry and his peers as a consummate filmmaker.

In an interview with the Inquirer on Friday night two hours after he filed his candidacy, the actor said he realized that he would be losing a sizeable income from advertising contracts and his television work for "Lupin," but that he felt confident his projects would come back after the elections.

Big sacrifice

"Look at Bong (Revilla)," Montano said, referring to the senator and actor, who still appears in his own television sitcom and in movies after winning a Senate seat in the last elections.

Speaking in Taglish, Montano told the Inquirer: "I am sacrificing my income for the opportunity to serve the people. I realize that my income as an actor and as a product endorser is what keeps my family alive. But I am willing to risk that for the country.

"Call me stupid for making this decision (to run for senator), but I made the decision with a clear conscience and a higher goal in mind. As an actor, I can only serve my country in a limited way. I can do much more for the people if I were a senator."

He admitted that he had yet to tell GMA 7 executives that he would be pulling out of "Lupin," even if his candidacy made the top story in television primetime news programs on Friday night.

"I have to call them one by one," he said, referring to "Lupin's" production staff. "I hope they would understand my decision.

"I would also call up Richard (Gutierrez) and apologize to him."

Montano said there were no legal impediments to his pulling out of the series at the last minute since he had yet to sign a contract with the network. He said he only had a verbal agreement with the producers.

Reggie Magno, production manager for "Lupin," confirmed to the Inquirer that Montano had not yet signed his contract.

Who can refuse GMA?

"He sent it back to us for revisions two weeks ago," Magno said. "But as far as we are concerned, he has already agreed to do the series for us. He already had a meeting with the production staff, where he gave his inputs on his role, the script and even the production design. At that time, he also assured us that he was not running for any political post.

"But who could refuse the President? Not even a Cesar Montano could turn her down."

"Lupin" already had its first and second day tapings on Thursday and Saturday.

Last Friday, a photo shoot for the cast of "Lupin" was scheduled by GMA 7 in a warehouse in Marikina. Montano showed up for the pictorial at about 1 p.m. and granted the Inquirer an exclusive interview.

During the interview, Montano denied that he would be running for an elective post and talked mostly about his role in the series.

But Montano told the Inquirer later that it was during that interview that he received a text message from presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio, saying: "The President wants to talk to you. Maybe her offer would interest you."

Can't refuse GMA

"Who was Cesar Montano to refuse the President? So I went there to the Palace after our interview," he said.

Before he could pose for promo stills for "Lupin," Montano asked to be excused from the shoot. He left the shoot at about 3 p.m. Friday accompanied by his manager, Norma Japitana.

"I didn't even know we were going to Malacañang," Japitana told the Inquirer.

Everything went so fast in Malacañang, according to Montano.

"The President wouldn't let me go anymore after I agreed to run for senator," he said. "I was not even able to tell my wife (actress Sunshine Cruz) that I had agreed to run for senator. By 7 p.m., I was at the Comelec (Commission on Elections) office to file my candidacy."

Montano said that he was "still shocked about everything." He admitted that it took President Arroyo only about an hour to convince him to run for senator under the administration ticket.

"The desire to raise the bar for oneself comes to a person's life," he said. "I am not sure that this opportunity would come again in the future. I think this happened through divine intervention. I don't even own my name. It was God and the people who made my name. If not by the grace of God, I might still be a bum in Sta. Ana, Manila."

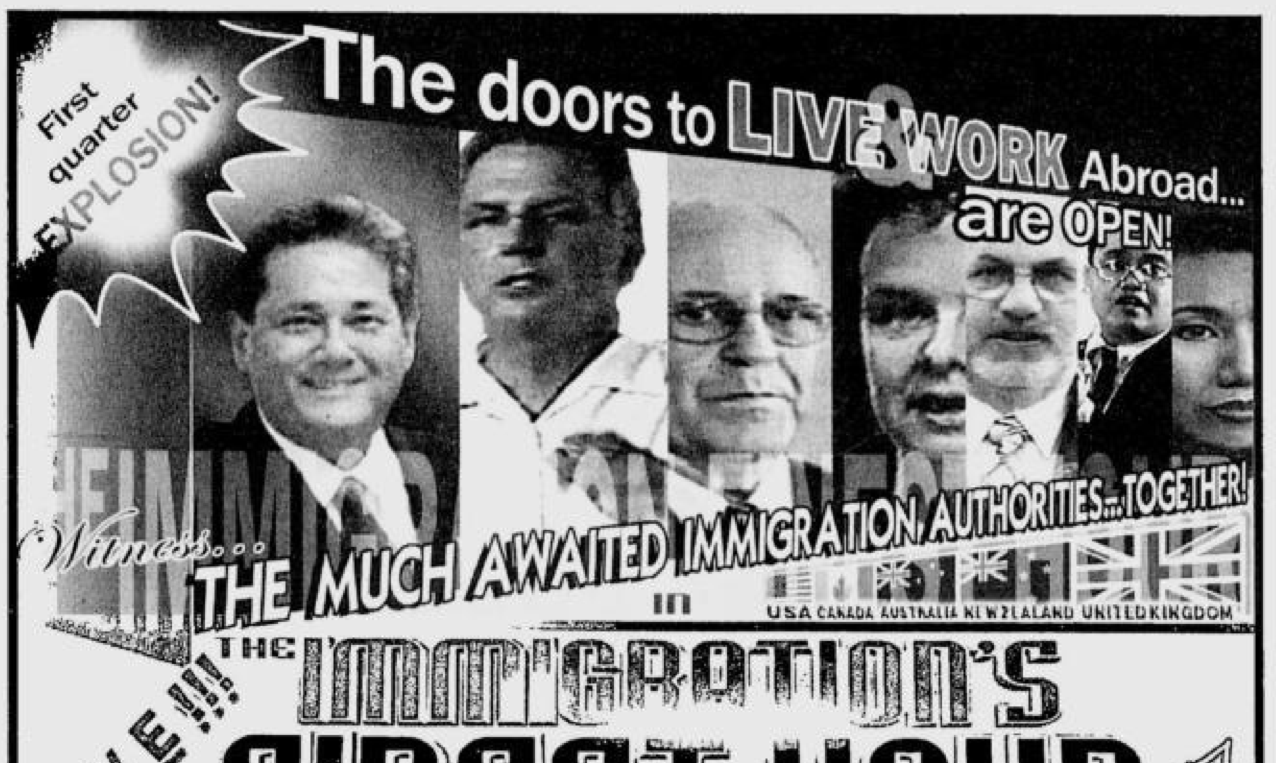
He said that he never made political plans, but admitted that he had known since a month ago that he was in the administration's long list of probable senatorial candidates. Another actor on the list was Edu Manzano, currently chair of the Optical Media Board.

"But I didn't close the door on politics," he said. "I feel that I can do something more for the country."

Asked who would finance his campaign, which political experts had estimated would run to P160 million for a senator, Montano said it would be the administration party which would spend for it and his supporters who had already pledged financial contributions for his campaign.

"My friends and supporters have assured me that they would back me up all the way—win or lose," Montano said.

"I know most people would think all this is a big joke, that I am crazy to want to enter politics. But I'm even crazier than you," he said, as a joke, perhaps the last one he would crack in a long, long time.


First quarter EXPLOSION!
The doors to LIVE & WORK Abroad... are OPEN!
Witness... THE MUCH AWAITED IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES...TOGETHER!
USA CANADA AUSTRALIA NEWZEALAND UNITEDKINGDOM
in
LIVE!!!

THE IMMIGRATION'S FINEST HOUR 2007

on February 24, 2007(Saturday) @ INS HEAD OFFICE
@ Suite 402-B V. Madrigal Bldg. 6793 Ayala Aven. Makati City

TOPICS
Different Visa Opportunities In Each Country * Latest Immigration Trends And Regulations
Fundamentals of a Professional Visa Application * Right Documentation Required For An Approved Visa
Identifying Sponsors to Live, Work & Study Abroad* Striking The Right Business Opportunities Abroad
Interactive Visa Eligibility Assessment Tool * Other Visa Programs as your Stepping Stone For Migration
Pitfalls of a Visa Application *Do's & Donts of the Visa Application*Process & Practical Tips to increase your approval rate* Dealing w/ Visa Problems, Denials / Deportation

SEMINAR / SCHEDULE & RATES

IMMIGRATION SEMINAR	TIME	PRE-PAID	WALK-IN
USA	10:00 AM	PhP 1,200	PhP 1,500
CANADA / CAREGIVER	1:00 PM	PhP 1,000	PhP 1,250
AUS / NZ / UK / SCHENGEN T.	3:00 PM	PhP 1,200	PhP 1,500

Inclusive of Snack& Visa Kit / Req:Comprehensive Resume & 2 x 2 Picture

MOST IN DEMAND OCCUPATIONS (Find out for more)

MANAGERS (in all fields) * ADMINISTRATORS * ACCOUNTANTS-CPA * AUDITORS *BOOKKEEPERS * PURCHASING OFFICERS *COURT RECORDERS * MKTG SPECIALISTS ENGINEERS (in all fields) * DOCTORS * MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES * OPTOMETRISTS * PHYSICAL THERAPISTS * SECRETARIES (Legal & medical) * SOCIAL WORKERS BUSINESSMEN * SENIOR MANAGERS * COMPANY EXECUTIVES * STOCKHOLDERS * COMPANY DIRECTORS * CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS * PART-OWNERS * EXECUTIVES AUDIO-VIDEO RECORDING / GRAPHIC ARTIST TECHS * FILM/VIDEO CAMERA OPERATORS SUPERVISORS (in all fields) * MANUFACTURING / PRODUCTION TECH MGRS ADV. CONSULTANTS * PROFESSORS/TEACHERS (Elementary/H S /Vocational) * PHARMACISTS * COMPANY/REG NURSES * IT/COMPUTER PROF * DENTAL TECH * DENTISTS ANIMAL HEALTH TECHS * CONSTRUCTION MGRS * TELECOM WORKERS * FITTERS (in all fields) * COOK/CHEFS * REF & AIRCON MECH. * MACHINERY SPECIALISTS INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS * TECHNICAL SALES SPECIALISTS * JOURNALISTS * EDITORS * GRAPHICS DESIGNERS * ARCHITECTS * IND L/INT'R DESIGNERS * WELDERS (in all fields) * SHEET METAL WORKERS * TECHNICAL SUPERVISORS. TRADESPERSONS * TOOL MAKERS * AIRCRAFT MECHS * PLUMBERS * UPHOLSTERERS AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICIAN * CABINET MAKERS * DRESSMAKERS * ELECTRICIANS * JEWELLER * MACHINISTS * MOTOR MECHANICS * SEAFARERS OFFICERS & many more

INS IMMIGRATION NETWORK SERVICES, INC.
FOR MORE DETAILS CALL INS SECRETARIAT @
891-5686 to 89 / 891-5920 / 891-5924
ins-global @ i-manila.com.ph
HURRY!! REGISTERED NOW BIG DISCOUNTS FOR EARLY REGISTRANTS
PROVINCIAL SEMINAR Feb. 19 @ 2pm, Paskuhan Hotel, San Fernando, Pampanga, Call Miss Miles: 0918-9102994

It's a go for Team Unity

From page A1

beaming Ms Arroyo raised their hands as a roar rose from the crowd.

Both Sotto and Oreta had supported Poe but bolted the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and joined the pro-administration Nationalist People's Coalition following disagreements over the opposition choices of senatorial bets.

Confetti and balloons

Speaking mostly in Cebuano, Ms Arroyo described Oreta as the "champion of women and education." She acknowledged Sotto by saying that a local hospital had been named after the former senator's grandfather.

Along with Ms Arroyo, all 12 administration candidates simultaneously raised their hands as colorful confetti and balloons rained down on them in a fitting closure to the proclamation rally.

Ms Arroyo urged Cebuanos to help replicate the administration victory in the 2004 elections.

"*Ang atong Team Unity nagahangyo sa inyong tabang ug suporta* (Team Unity asks for your help and support)," she told supporters in the vote-rich province that gave her a one-million-vote edge over Poe in 2004.

Austerity theme

The President said her senatorial team was "pro-poor, pro-growth and pro-modernization."

Ms Arroyo called out the names of the senatorial candidates, one after the other, at one point singing Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri's campaign jingle, "*Boom-tarat-tarat.*"

The crowd included congressional allies, local supporters and campaign managers.

Campaign director Reli German and his deputy, Ike Gutierrez, said yesterday's rally did not have the usual song and dance numbers or celebrity guests that marked administration campaigns in past elections, in keeping with the "austerity" theme being observed by the coalition.

Many 'firsts'

Cebu Mayor Tomas Osmeña, who introduced Ms Arroyo, profusely thanked her for breaking tradition after the 2004 polls by taking her oath of office in Cebu on June 30, 2005, setting up a replica of Malacañang—dubbed "Malacañang sa Sugbu"—in the city and bringing the entire senatorial slate to Cebu.

It was a day of other "firsts" for the administration—it was the first time that all the candidates were seen together in public and it was also the first time that the President raised their hands in a formal endorsement.

It was also the first time that candidates who used to be on rival sides of the political fence were on the same stage, like Oreta and Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. Like Ms Arroyo and her critics, Senators Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto.

Proving that the last shall be the first, Montano upstaged his teammates—including reelectionist Senators Edgardo Angara, Arroyo and Recto, Representatives Prospero Pichay Jr. and Zubiri, former presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor, Governors Vic Magsaysay and Singson, and Sultan Jamalul Kiram III of Sulu.

From the moment he entered the coliseum, the crowd went gaga over the charismatic multi-awarded actor, who shot to national fame with movies such as "Machete," "Jose Rizal," "Panaghoy sa Suba" and "Muro Ami."

His own show

He has told reporters that he will pursue reforms to benefit the youth, culture and tourism.

Wearing a white shirt, blue denims and a yellow baseball cap on which rested his sunglasses, Montano kept blowing kisses at the crowd.

Were it not for the Presidential Security Group, which tried to keep a semblance of order in the crowd, the rally could have turned into his own show.

TE
UN
Tulong-tulong

LYN RILLON

THE STAR OF THE TEAM UNITY LAUNCH was clearly Cesar Montano who only had to walk on stage to get the audience going gaga.

Montano even nearly stole the limelight from Ms Arroyo by introducing his fellow candidates one by one, a task reserved for the President as titular head of the ruling coalition.

Montano, who was raised in Bohol and is fluent in Cebuano, also committed a blooper by introducing Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia as "Gwen Garci," a sexy starlet, to the delight of the crowd.

Saving the day

But before his utterance of the name "Garci" could spoil the rally, Montano smoothly salvaged the situation by suggesting that the governor looked like the starlet, anyway.

"*Kasi nakasama ko sa pelikula yun. Nalito ako, parehong sexy* (It's because I once worked with her in a movie. I was confused because they both looked sexy)."

Montano was a substitute for Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla, who withdrew from the Senate race and decided to seek reelection as governor. Petilla joined the proclamation rally to show solidarity with the team.

Ms Arroyo's critics in the Senate who are now with Team Unity—Angara, Arroyo and Recto—took time to justify their joining the unity team, even accusing the opposition of failing to provide a viable alternative to the administration.

Angara, who joined the unity ticket after the camp of former President Joseph Estrada snubbed him, harped on his forte—education and justice—vowing to continue "focusing on quality education, speedy justice and improving the competitiveness of Filipinos."

It's GMA walking tall

Borrowing from his campaign slogan, "Tol, Walking Tall," Defensor said Ms Arroyo was the "real walking tall, standing tall" due to recent economic gains.

Explaining his crusade to provide homes for the homeless, he said: "*Ibabahay ko kayo* (I will provide housing for all of you)."

Pichay said the administration envisioned a unity that would transcend politics by reaching out to everyone.

Year of the pig . . .

From page A1

ish gift-giving and a tendency to make sizable investments at the spur of the moment.

Entertaining will be the most popular activity of the year. Social, cultural and charitable functions will fill people's calendars. Many new friends will be made because of the tolerant, affable and generous nature of the pig.

La dolce vita (the good life) is sweetest in the sensual Year of the Boar. One can easily find happiness without spending a lot on material possessions. A sense of well-being will prevail and there will be fewer challenges to overcome.

Expect business and industry to reach record highs. While prudence is recommended in money matters, the tendency to vacillate or procrastinate could lead to missed opportunities to expand and grow.

Outlook for 2006

Rat. Time for consolidation and relaxation. Excessive demands from family and friends could take up a lot of your time and money. Don't go to extremes this year; practice moderation.

Ox. Valuable contacts will be made this year. Pay attention to relationships at home and in the work place. This is a busy time for the Ox.

Tiger. High risk investments are discouraged at this time. Curb your tendency to overspend. A thorough check on new associates is imperative.

Rabbit. This is not the year to make promises. Take care to protect your interests. It's a perfect time for romance.

Dragon. Expect good times. Lots of entertaining and traveling. Family life will be harmonious. Career highs are indicated.

Snake. Think before making any decision. Maximum energy is required to move things in the desired direction. Temptation to circumvent the laws of the land should be avoided.

Horse. Although your success may be stymied by outside interference and unexpected developments, you will have enough energy and power to overcome and turn around any negative influence or circumstance. You will make it to the finish line.

Sheep. Recovery seen after last year's troubles. Learn to relax, enjoy life, let go of past disappointments with friends and associates. The Sheep will have access to funds not previously available.

Monkey. Learn to compromise. Practice due diligence for new projects. Going solo is encouraged rather than going into joint ventures. The Monkey will, as usual, be active.

Rooster. Prudent planning will save you a lot of trouble. Consultations with those truly in the know are encouraged to ensure success. Improve your home life through amicable communication.

Dog. Expect to make substantial gains through speculation or receive benefits from unexpected channels. Additional expenses are part of the game. Expect to make new friends and influential contacts. Romance is in the air.

Pig. This is your year to stabilize and grow. Great opportunities await you. Past friction in the workplace may still be felt, but there will be no major setbacks. A tendency to be pigheaded could get you into trouble.

Lack of funds slows down GO campaign sorties

By Norman Bordadora

THE GENUINE OPPOSITION's (GO) financial woes are starting to affect its senatorial campaign sorties, San Juan Mayor and GO campaign manager Joseph Victor Ejercito admitted yesterday.

This early in the campaign, a series of GO sorties have already been postponed.

Members of the media were advised of week-long campaigning in Iloilo, Antique and Capiz tomorrow until Friday but were later told that they had been put off.

"(Funding) is a problem but it has not stopped us from pursuing our goal to be with the people, especially with the warm reception our candidates are getting," Ejercito said.

Despite the fund lack and other problems, GO spokesperson Adel Tamano said their campaign was off to a strong start.

"Please check out our sorties. There is a very warm reception by the people," he said.

Tamano said financial problems hurt but they are not the only reason for the rescheduling of some sorties.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, one of the candidates who joined yesterday's GO campaign in Rizal province, said money was indeed a problem in the opposition camp.

"Funds are hard to come by not because of a lack of enthusiasm and support from fund contributors. It is more of fear of reprisals from the administration who they say has the propensity to make life and business difficult for them if they are found to be helping the opposition," Lacson said.

"On the other hand, the administration has an almost bottomless source of funds, albeit illegal," he added.

Ejercito said changes had to be made in the schedule of GO's campaign sorties to allow individual senatorial candidates to raise funds for the opposition's campaign.

"Partly, (the lack of resources) has caused changes because individual candidates are having a few problems. The schedule of sorties is sometimes irregular because we have to give them time to raise funds," Ejercito said in a telephone interview.

"You can't help spending from your own personal funds. For instance, I had to spend for this motorcade," Ejercito said in a telephone interview.

GO candidates motored through several towns of Rizal province yesterday on board an assortment of fuel-guzzling sport utility vehicles and commuter vans.

"But everyone's pinching in. Each candidate is spending for the food of their respective supporters. *Ang lumalabas dito*, KKB (*kanya-kanyang bayad* or each one spends for his or her own)," Ejercito said.

Ejercito, however, admitted there were other causes for the changes in the schedule.

"There are the dirty tricks of the administration that our candidates have to deal with. For instance, Congressman (Alan Peter) Cayetano has to deal with Joselito Pepito Cayetano (through complaints before the Commission on Elections)," Ejercito said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 18, 2007
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

I would not harm you.

Saul went down with 3,000 picked men of Israel to the desert of Ziph in search of David.

So, that night, David and Abishai went into the camp and found Saul sleeping in the center, his spear thrust into the ground at his head, while Abner and the rest of the soldiers were sleeping around him. Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hands this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not repeat it." But David answered Abishai, "Do not harm him. For who could harm Yahweh's anointed and not be punished?"

So David took the spear and the water jug from near Saul's head and they left. Nobody saw, nobody knew, nobody woke up. All remained asleep, for a deep sleep from Yahweh had fallen on them.

On the opposite slope David stood at a distance, on top of the hill. David answered, "I have your spear with me, O king! Let one of your servants come over to fetch it. Yahweh rewards a righteous and loyal man. Today he delivered you into my hands but I refused to harm Yahweh's anointed."

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Bear the image of the heavenly one.

Scripture says that Adam, the first man, became a living being, was given natural life; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit.

The spirit does not appear first, but the natural life, and afterwards comes the spirit. The first man comes from the earth and is earthly, while the second one comes from heaven. As it was with the earthly one, so is it with the earthly people. As it is with Christ, so with the heavenly. This is why, after bearing the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I say to you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you and pray for those who treat you badly. To the one who strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek; from the one who takes your coat, do not keep back your shirt. Give to the one who asks and if anyone has taken something from you, do not demand it back.

"Do to others as you would have others do to you. If you love only those who love you, what kind of graciousness is yours? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do favors to those who are good to you, what kind of graciousness is yours? Even sinners do the same. If you lend only when you expect to receive, what kind of graciousness is yours? For sinners also lend to sinners, expecting to receive something in return.

"But love your enemies and do good to them, and lend when there is nothing to expect in return. Then will your reward be great and you will be sons and daughters of the Most High. For he is kind towards the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Don't be a judge of others and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you, and you will receive in your sack good measure, pressed down, full and running over. For the measure you give will be the measure you receive back."

Commentary

Saul goes hunting David—one man against an army of 3,000! It is David who finds Saul by night and takes his spear and water jug, but does not kill him. The Lord rewards justice and faithfulness, not killing and murder. David's greatness is that he did not kill when he could have! We are called as people who live upon the earth but we bear the likeness of God and so we must act as God acts.

And so Jesus tells us what that is like: love our enemies (it is repeated again and again) and do good to all, even those who harm us or those we fear. We are to react to violence and aggression with human restraint and imagination. We are to give generously to all, lending to others in need. We are to be compassionate like God (like God has always been to us!) and we are to forgive and pardon. This is to be our greatness if we bear the likeness of God upon us.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications) & http://www.claretphilippines.org (Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines)

The most affordable condo units in Quezon City for as low as
P623,112/unit*
30, 60, 90 sqm
Available through Cash, In-house & Pag-IBIG financing.

Come to our open house today, Feb. 18 and avail of our pre-development discounts for as much as P36,888

PHINMA PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORP.
City Living Made Easy

San Bernssa
GARDEN VILLAS

HOW TO GET THERE: From EDSA northbound, turn right to either East, Quezon or North Avenues, go straight until you reach the Quezon City Elliptical Circle. Turn right to Commonwealth Avenue and drive straight until you reach the unpaved portion. For commuters, take Jordan Plaines Subdivision jeepney & get off at the gate.

812-PPHC (7742) • 0917-812-PPHC (7742)
Boomland Realty: 939-7338

BDO UNIBANK BANCO DE ORO
Equitable PCI BANK

Super Value HOME LOAN

Gives you low, low interest for as long as 25 years!

Globe BROADBAND

FREE landline and unlimited internet access for up to 2 years!

Powered by: Globe BROADBAND
Enriching real lives in real time.

APPLY NOW!

Banco De Oro
631-8000 (within Metro Manila)
or 1-800-10-6318000 (Domestic Toll-Free)
visit www.bancodeoro.com.ph

Promo period: February 15 to July 31, 2007.
See fliers for details. Terms and conditions apply.

Equitable PCI Bank
84-911 (within Metro Manila)
PLDT: 1-800-188-84-911 and
Digitel: 1-800-333-84-911 (Provincial)
visit www.equitablepcib.com

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0570 Series of 2007.

Home are the sailors from the sea of captivity

From page A1

HUGS, TEARS, JOY: Cirilo Nebit and his family including wife Melinda and children Daniel 13, Darwin, 10, Daryl, 14, Dax 3 just hang on to each other in Malacañang. The families of the 24 sailors were brought to the Palace to wait for their loved ones to ensure a more private and meaningful reunion. REM ZAMORA

The reason: One of her security aides said she attended the "Thrills of Spring" show of the Guangxi acrobat troupe of China at the Philippine International Convention Center with granddaughter Mikaela.

Ms Arroyo finally arrived at the Heroes Hall lobby, where the seamen had formed in a half-circle.

She shook the hands of the awestruck seafarers and spent the next 45 minutes making small talk with them and their families.

At one table, she asked: "Did you get nervous?" The seaman replied: "Of course".

The seamen and their families expressed their gratitude to Ms Arroyo. They will stay in Manila for at least one day for a checkup for malaria.

"Take a rest because we don't want you to catch malaria. Get well and stay well," was Ms Arroyo's parting statement.

Malacañang served the returning seamen fresh lumpia ubod, fried fish fillet, pork adobo, pasta and chicken with white sauce and fruit salad.

The seamen were ferried from the airport in three buses chartered by their agency, Philippine Hammonia Shipagency. The agency also provided them with barong which they put on in the buses on the way to the Palace.

During the bus ride to Malacañang, one of the hostages, Carlos Avellana, received a birthday cake from the agency—Friday, it turned out, was his 55th birthday.

The seamen, who were abducted on Jan. 20, spent 24 days under constant threat by gunmen in masks in the muddy swamps of the oil-rich Delta region, as Philippine and Nigerian negotiators worked for their release.

During their captivity, pictures of them being held by masked gunmen were flashed around the world.

Palace dinner

Aart Broek, managing director of Navigo, which has been tapping Filipino seamen for 21 years, said the Malacanang dinner was the seamen's first (except for the dinner on the plane they had) since their release.

"When I saw them (the gunmen) I thought it was the end for all us," Edgardo Ellera, one of the crewmen, said while holding on tightly to his young child. "We didn't know what would happen to us. They were wearing masks, and they were many."

The seamen's captain, Ruben Roble, said it was not true that his men were traumatized. "I am proud of my crew," he said.

Henry Sebastian, a seaman for 10 years, said: "I'm not thinking of those things yet (compensation and therapy). What is important is that I am with my family."

Sebastian said it was the first time he saw plenty of hooded men with high-powered guns.

Jailed in an island

"I really thought we won't get out of there alive. My fear did not subside until our release. You can't remove the fear while we were in the hands of our abductors," Sebastian said.

"Of course I will come back, because that is where I earn my living. I wanted to be a seaman but I never dreamed of experiencing this."

Sebastian said the food and water they had while in captivity came from their own ship's supplies.

He said they were held inside a house, not a cell, on an island about an hour's ride by speed boat from where they were abducted. Sebastian said they only took a bath every other day and had trouble using the toilet because it had no doors and was an open pit.

Based on their account, there were 10 gunboats that surrounded their ship. They described the island as a deep jungle with a lot of monkeys and strange animal sounds at night.

No words

Arriving at the airport earlier last night, the seamen had no time to talk to reporters but their smiles, waves and thumbs-up signs expressed what words could not.

Giving the media mob only one-line replies, the seamen were a picture of relief upon disembarking from Cathay Pacific Flight CX 903 from Hong Kong, the last connecting flight they had to take to get to Manila from Nigeria's capital of Abuja.

The Cathay flight, their third after taking a plane from Abuja to London and a London-Hongkong flight, touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 1 at 6:40 p.m.

The seafarers waved at the waiting media, seemingly unmindful of the long, tiring trip they had just endured.

"*Masaya*, happy *ako*, happy," said Rogelio Sarcia, one of the seamen, while being escorted by airport security.

"I feel happy," said another, who was not able to give his name as officials rushed the group to the buses that would take them to Malacañang.

Not routine

Welcomed by officials of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Department of Foreign Affairs, the seamen bypassed routine arrival procedures and walked past the immigration and security checks.

"We're very happy because everybody is alive, everybody is safe, and everybody will be going to their respective families," said Adam Musa, Owwa deputy administrator.

Owwa still could not give details on what had prompted the group's Nigerian captors to release them as "there's still no formal report given to us," Musa said.

"But what we can say is, everything is successful and the hostage victims are free," Musa said.

The seafarers were abducted from the German-owned cargo ship Baco-Liner 2 off the coast of Nigeria. They were turned over to Philippine authorities in Nigeria on Feb. 13 at 3:30 p.m. (10:30 p.m. in Manila).

Families' torment

"I couldn't sleep. I was just crying and crying," Jocelyn Arcangel said while waiting at the Palace for her husband, Roberto Arcangel, to arrive.

"My sons don't want him to leave anymore. It was very traumatic. We have not heard from them for a long time and there are fears that they were harmed."

The men declined to comment on negotiations that led to their freedom, for fear of jeopardizing the safety of two other Filipinos seized separately two weeks ago. Filipino diplomats are in Nigeria working to free them.

A Filipino woman was abducted on Feb. 7 in Port Harcourt in Rivers State. The woman was seized in the center of the city, at the heart of Nigeria's oil industry, by gunmen who immediately switched off her phone.

A day earlier, a Filipino employee of Netco Dietsmann—the Nigerian arm of a Monaco-based oil services company—was seized from a company car heading for the airport in Owerri, the capital of Imo State.

Glenda Cagas said her husband, Herculano Cagas, would probably ship out again after resting in Manila, despite his traumatic ordeal.

"It is difficult, but we don't have any other choice. We need the livelihood for the family," Cagas said, noting that their two children, aged 6 and 4, had yet to enter primary school.

Hardest part

"The hardest part for us was when we saw them on cable television being threatened with guns by their captors in masks," she said.

Nigeria is one of the biggest employers of Filipino workers in Africa, with some 3,900 Filipinos employed there at the end of 2006. *With a report from AFP*

Senate bets run on God-centered politics

From page A1

vinced of victory, or at least a shot at it.

Bautista left for the US a year after he graduated from the University of the Philippines in 1989. Throughout the 17 years that he spent as a physician in New York and Oklahoma, he said he never applied for a green card.

Last year, he came home for good, bringing with him his wife, a UP-trained pulmonologist, and four young daughters.

Life is short

"Life is short, so better spend it by doing something good for your country," he said in an interview at the Ang Kapatiran headquarters at Greenmeadows in Pasig.

Ang Kapatiran (Alliance for the Common Good) is a political party put up three years ago by Nandy Pacheco, the well-known advocate for a gunless society. The party promotes God-centered politics and calls for the abolition of the "pork barrel" and gambling, among other advocacies.

Aside from Bautista, the party is fielding three other candidates for senator—Mario Ongkiko, Zosimo Paredes and Adrian Sison, who are all lawyers.

Except for Ongkiko, who is acknowledged to be one of the country's top lawyers, the others are unknowns in politics.

"All the pundits are saying that we won't win, but that's a defective concept," said the 50-year-old Sison who specializes in family law and taxation cases.

Abundance of idealism

"We're praying that the people will finally wake up and realize that there are genuine alternatives to traditional politics and politicians," he said.

There's an abundance of idealism among the four candidates, including Ongkiko who has been practicing law for the past 50 years. At 75, he doesn't really need the prestige and clout that come with being a senator to cement his place in the sun.

"I can earn enough to last me my lifetime. But I'm not thinking of myself. I'm doing this for my children and my grandchildren," he said.

So it is also with the 58-year-old Paredes who is best remembered for publicly criticizing the transfer of an American soldier, the convicted rapist Daniel Smith, to the custody of the US Embassy.

It cost Paredes his job as executive director of the presidential commission monitoring the implementation of the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Paredes clarified that he would not use the issue to land a Senate seat. He said he had no intention of even mentioning the name of the Filipino woman who accused the US Marine officer of raping her.

WHO THEY? Dreamers or fools? (From left) Adrian Sison, Zozimo Paredes, Martin Bautista M.D. are running for the Senate on a platform of a God-centered politics and governance under the Kapatiran party. CHRISTIAN ESGUERRA

"I won't mention anything about it unless I'm asked. I didn't even know that many Filipinos appreciated what I had done," he said.

Educating voters

Pacheco said the decision to field senatorial candidates in May was meant in part to educate Filipino voters who have become inured to traditional politics.

"The people are truly fed up with what they see," he said.

"If [the Kapitiran candidates] win, it will be a clear sign that Filipino voters are becoming mature," he said.

But what can three lawyers and a doctor do in the Senate?

They all vow to vigorously pursue the Kapatiran vision "to bring back the teachings of God into the center of politics." This is the response of Pacheco and his peers to the Second Vatican Council's idea of an "empowered laity."

"The laity must lead in the renewing of politics," says one of the group's leaders.

Pro-life party

The party is clearly "pro-life," is for "progressive disarmament" in the national and international level, and regards as a priority projects for the homeless, elderly, prisoners, disabled, veterans and the youth.

Kapatiran is also unique in vowing to discipline members for any wrongdoing.

Ongkiko said theirs was the only genuine political party, noting that both the administration's Team Unity and the Genuine Opposition were carrying candidates who used to belong to the other side.

"There's no opposition or administration, it's just a fantasy. They don't have a platform. All they want is to win," he said.

Paredes said the administration and opposition candidates would eventually "cancel each other out," paving the way for Kapatiran candidates to be noticed.

"It's like seeing a streak of white in a backdrop of black," he said.

The Kapatiran candidates are banking on the honest support of well-meaning Filipinos to make up for their lack of political machinery.

"We ask the people to run our campaign, to champion the cause of change," Ongkiko said.

No gimmicks

The party has launched a project called "Alay Panglinis Pulitika" to invite campaign donations. It has also quietly enlisted the support of a number of parish-based organizations, including the wide-ranging Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs).

Not being entitled to poll watchers, it will rely on groups like the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting to ensure honest elections in May and indirectly safeguard their votes.

The campaign strategy is quite different from the traditional political gimmicks—the sunny smiles, colorful dress, catchy jingles and celebrity endorsers—that this early are threatening to dull the taste of Filipino voters just three days into the official campaign period.

Ongkiko, Paredes, Sison and Bautista will basically rely on the best of intentions and work to effectively communicate them to voters.

"We will talk sanely to the people," Paredes said.

The Holy Spirit

For Bautista, the presence of God will help in the communication job, much like what the Holy Spirit did for St. Paul and the Apostles when they spread the good news nearly 2,000 years ago.

Yesterday, Bautista was on a one-man campaign at the densely populated Greenhills area. Offering nothing but flyers, a sincere greeting and a clear legislative program, he was not shunned as just another nuisance candidate.

It's a good start for someone who doesn't ride on the popularity of a former president, does not sing or dance, and is not the husband of a movie star, and is a movie star himself.

Website opens doors for dateless singles

From page A1

single dads even some foreigners.

Buladaco was one of the more than 70 singles who were trying their luck at a "speed dating" event in Makati on Friday night which the organizers, Itzamatch.com, a local matchmaking website with 650,000 members, claimed to the biggest such event in the country.

Mary Ann Go, marketing head of Itzamatch.com, said they wanted to give single people, who she said were always left out in the frenzy of Valentine's Day, a chance to celebrate the Day of Hearts in this unique way.

Everywhere in Asia, the unmarried and the dateless celebrate Valentine's Day after Feb. 14, said Go.

"Now, we are bringing that whole idea to the Philippines," she said.

Speed dating, a matchmaking process whose purpose is to encourage singles to meet as many new people as possible, was originated in the late 1990s by an international Jewish educational network for Jewish singles to meet each other in cities where they are outnumbered by non-Jews.

Sex and the City

The system became popular in the United States where many commercial services started offering similar events, particularly after it was featured in popular TV shows like "Sex and the City."

Last Friday's speed dating event in Makati was hardly the first to be held in the Philippines. The Six Degrees group has been organizing speed dating sessions since 2005 and even claims that several pairs who met in their events had ended up at the altar. And on Valentine's Day, the Animax cable channel organized a "Celebrity Speed Dating" event where show biz celebrities were thrown into the mix to stir up interest.

Speed dating typically involves men and women being rotated to meet each other over a series of short "dates," usually lasting for five minutes, during which they talk about everything from their favorite pet, movie or book, their most memorable moments or the meaning of life. Exchanging contact information is prohibited during this initial date.

Giving oneself a chance

At the end of each meeting, the organizer rings a bell to signal the participants to move on to the next date. The game ends after every participant has talked with their opposite number. All participants submit their choices to the organizers who tally the results. If there is a match, contact information is provided to both parties.

"I joined this game because this time I want to give myself a chance to find the one I will love and who will love me in return," said Buladaco, a therapist working the graveyard shift at a Korean massage house in Pasay.

Buladaco said she found out about the event from a newspaper ad and decided to go thinking it might guide her to the man "who can make [her] heart flutter."

She said her marriage at 18 had been arranged by her parents. She said she was in love with her childhood sweetheart but her parents forced her into the marriage.

The marriage was not a happy one. Her husband, who died of kidney complications in 2005, habitually beat her, she said.

"But it still amazes me how we sired six children even in the absence of love," she said.

Second chance

She expected her recently separated childhood sweetheart to celebrate Valentine's Day with her last week. But when he didn't show, she decided to give speed dating a try.

"I never got to choose who I can love, so now is my second chance," she said.

Seated a few chairs away from Buladaco was Rafaela Cruz, 31, who said she has not been in a serious relationship for four years now.

Cruz said she joined to meet new friends and was hoping to find someone who could become the father of her two children sired by two different men.

"I closed the door [to romance] after I got out of my relationship with the father of my second baby in 2002. I got scared of getting hurt and fooled again," Cruz said.

She said she was heavy with her second child when she found out that her partner had gotten another girl pregnant. She decided to call it quits, she said.

Her first serious relationship was just as painful, she said. Her first boyfriend got her pregnant at the age of 20. "We never got married because it was not the answer [to the problem]," she said.

Opening doors

After being hurt twice, she devoted all her time to her children and a family-owned flower shop and giveaways business.

"This [dating game] is something new. I am actually excited," she said.

"I've decided that it's time to open my doors again and widen my horizons," she said.

Ex-military officials join political battles

By Christine O. Avendaño and Fe Zamora

BAGUIO CITY—MORE FORMER MILITARY men are assaulting the political arena.

Those joining the May election fray include Col. Abraham Purugganan, the former Young Officers' Union (YOU) leader, retired Police Director Eduardo Matillano and former Police Comptroller Reynaldo Velasco.

Purugganan hopes to become congressman of La Union, Matillano is seeking to displace Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, while Velasco is running for mayor of Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

Former Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao has also expressed plans to run for governor of Pangasinan. Retired Col. Zosimo Paredes and accused coup plotter Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV had filed candidacies for seats in the Senate.

Matillano told reporters during the homecoming of alumni of the Philippine Military Academy yesterday that he was "physically and spiritually" ready to do battle in Puerto Princesa and was not fazed by the prospect of fighting it out with Hagedorn, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Who makes a mayor

"The President does not make a mayor. It's the people," said Matillano.

He said that if elected, he would stop the extrajudicial killings in Palawan, calling attention to the ambush last year of radio broadcaster Dong Batul, whose murder remained unresolved.

Matillano belongs to PMA Class 1971, the same class to which former military men-turned-senators Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan belong.

Their election to the Senate, along with former Gen. Rodolfo Biazon and Gen. Alfredo Lim may have fueled hopes—or delusions—others in uniform could do the same.

Other ex-military people had also won seats in the Lower House: Brig. Gen. Rodrigo Gutang, Brig. Gen. Tomas Dumpit, Lt. Col. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, among others. Brig. Gen. Gerardo Flores was elected mayor of a town in Panay.

Ramos, too

And of course, Gen. Fidel V. Ramos was elected President in 1992.

Matillano said his entry into politics was just a part of fighting for his country, which he said he started when he first joined the Edsa People Power uprising in 1986 and later the coup attempt against the Aquino administration in 1987.

"We in our class are committed to service," he told reporters.

Purugganan, on the other hand, said that he was joining the political arena because he had always been an advocate of reforms, having served in the government as well.

Personal choice

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, a former military general and congressman, said former military men entered into the political arena out of "personal choice."

"They go to public service after retirement because they think they can really help; that is their motivation ," Ermita said.

Biazon said he believed that the Edsa uprising in 1986 "opened the gates" for military people getting into politics "because the military played a major role in that political event."

A member of PMA Class 1970, retired Col. Teodoro Delarmente, advised comrades who harbor political plans to also study the terrain before plunging into battle.

"They don't even study the rudiments of politics. They think that because they became provincial director of this or that province, they were already famous," Delarmente said.

A lawyer who works at the Bureau of Immigration, Delarmente is married to Beth Delarmente, a councilor in Quezon City who plans to run for a congressional seat in May.

Election Campaign Materials
- Car Magnets
- Button Pins
- Stickers
- T-Shirts
- Plastic Banners
- Tarpaulin
- Posters & Flyers
- and many more...

Dinsmor Promo Pls. Call: 400-8716
email: sales@dinsmorpromo.com

EXPERIENCE BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITIES!!!

Be one of our Distributors and earn up to Php 50,000 /month with only Php 1,800 capital for initial product inventory.

Come at Unit 914 CITYLAND SHAW TOWER
Saint Francis St. corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

For Orientation: Monday to Saturday at 2PM

Businessmen, OFWs, Students, Employees, Housewives, etc. are Welcome

Real Business, Real Options . . . . . bizOptions, Inc.

MARVELOUS TRIPS
AIRFARE

HKG VIA PAL	$138	GUAM	$278
K. LUMPUR	$100	SFO	$637
SIN. VIA PAL	$138	LAX	$637
BKK VIA PAL	$138	EUROPE	$710

TOUR PACKAGES

HKG + SHENZHEN + MACAU W/ DISNEY	$179
KUALA + GENTING HIGHLANDS	$208
4D/3N SZN + HKG WITH DISNEY	$218
SIN. + MALAYSIA + INDONESIA VIA PAL	$274
7D/6N SHENZHEN+SHANGHAI+BEIJING	$369
1N STAR CRUISES + HKG + DISNEY	$348

4D/3N SHENZHEN	$ 88	2N SIN. VIA PAL	$194
4D/3N SZN + MACAU	$ 98	3D/2N K. LUMPUR	$218
3D/2N KOTA KINABALU	$ 99	3D/2N MACAU PKG.	$169
3D/2N BKK VIA PAL	$172	3D/2N GUAM PKG.	$358
		3D/2N SAIPAN PKG.	$460

HOLYWEEK IN HOLYLAND	$2,150
EUROPEAN ESCAPADE	$2,338
EUROPEAN PILGRIMAGE	$2,550

STARCRUISE, HKG., SAIPAN, GUAM NCLEX PACKAGE COMPANY OUTINGS, GROUP TOURS & SCHOOL TRIPS AVAILABLE

MACRIEL TRAVEL & TOURS
Rm. 301 Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
Tels.: 521-8828-32 • Cell. No.: (0920) 4218877 • (0915) 4483113
(0915) 571-0185 • (0922) 593-9520 • E-mail: luriel12@yahoo.com

ROYALWINGS TRAVEL & TOURS
2/F Northridge Plaza Annex A, 12 Congressional Ave., Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: 455-1077 • 927-3674 • Telefax: 455-1173
Cell. No.: 0916-6140577 • E-mail: royalwings_travel@yahoo.com

OFFICE HOURS 10AM - 8PM
OPEN ON SUNDAYS

TOURS & PILGRIMAGES
EARLY BIRD SALE!

HOLYLAND/ JORDAN/ EGYPT Mar 12 or Mar 26 (Palm Sunday Procession) $1,888 only

MEDJUGORJE w/ Turkey, Greece & Austria w/ Msgr. Jerome Reyes Apr. 16

HOLYLAND/EUROPE (w/ LOURDES & FATIMA) via Dubai Apr 18

Lower SPAIN, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO Apr. 17 Alhambra & Fatima

BALI/ BRUNEI Holyweek

Incredible INDIA/MALAYSIA
Pakistan Taj Mahal!

BEIJING & SHANGHAI
KOREA/JAPAN Apr 6
KOREA & BEIJING
BANGKOK & CAMBODIA

VISITA IGLESIA:
Bulacan & Pampanga- Apr. 4
Tagaytay & Batangas- Apr. 5

LOWEST PLANE FARES

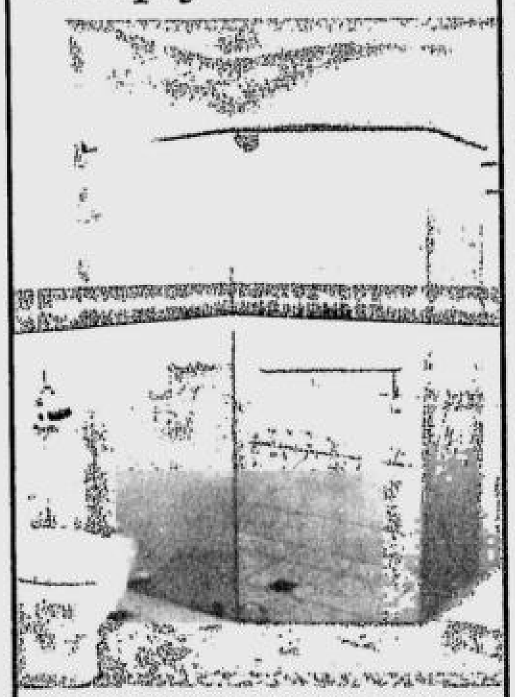
Adams EXPRESS TRAVEL
Serving Lifetime Memories

Expert Visa Assistance
Tours Anywhere PTAA

M.H. Del Pilar cor. T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila • Tels: 522-3876 / 521-1698 / 1651 / 1638
Fax: 521-2255 • Email: adamstvl@pldtdsl.net

SGO
Stained Glass Overlay

Simply Beautiful



FRAMELESS SHOWER
- Uses 10 mm TEMPERED GLASS
- Glass can be frosted or etched
- Also available - TEMPERED FIGURED GLASS
- Custom made sizes

SGO (Phils.), Inc.
#64 Obudan St., Brgy. Manresa, Q.C.
413.6935 365.0887 365.1335 363.0175
sgosales@smartbro.net www.sgo.com.ph

SM City North Edsa, Level 3, Main Bldg.	456 6886 927 3126
Wilcon Builders, Edsa Balintawak, Quezon City	361.6413
MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	818.5683
Ortigas Home Depot, Julia Vargas Ave., Pasig City	638.4117 633.9862
Alabang Home Depot, Alabang-Zapote Road	771.2233
Manila Bay cor. Buendia Ave., Pasay City	

WE ACCEPT PROVINCIAL JOBS AND INSTALLATION

Ateneo de Manila University
Department of Environmental Science
Center of Development
Commission on Higher Education

MASTER IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
- Non – thesis graduate program
- Responds to the needs of environmental practitioners and leaders in the solution of various environmental problems
- Provides essential background and international perspectives in Environmental Science, Engineering, Economics, Ethics, Law and Policy

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
- Thesis graduate program
- Enhances technical skills in identifying, analyzing and developing holistic and innovative solutions to environmental problems
- Provides advanced knowledge in resource conservation and pollution prevention from both local and international perspectives

Deadline for Application is May 4, 2007

Interested applicants are invited to contact:
The Chairperson
Department of Environmental Science
School of Science and Engineering
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Phone: 426 6001 local 5650
Telefax: 426 4321
Email: envirsci@admu.edu.ph
Website: www.ateneo.edu/depts/es

We Buy Diamonds! Cash Paid Instantly

Accepts diamonds 2 carats and up preferably round, emerald or old miner's (Antigo) cut.

Guaranteed to give you the HIGHEST appraisal for your diamonds!

Only at

JOAILLIER
Fine Jewelry

Ground Floor, Dusit Hotel Nikko,
Ayala Center, Makati City
Mondays to Saturdays 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

All transactions strictly confidential!

Tel. Nos.: 817-8855 • 815-3191 • 0926-7093812

BAD BREATH PROBLEM?

THERABREATH™ SYSTEM removes harmful bacteria utilizing the oxygenating power of revolutionary OXYD-8 which naturalizes sulfur-producing bacteria that cause Bad Breath, Gum Disease, Tooth Decay, Sticky Saliva, Phlegm in Throat, Dryness of Mouth. *Eliminates bitter/sour tastes, awful morning breath and food odor.*

OXYD-8 found only in THERABREATH™ System oxidizing Sulfur-Bonds with concentrated CLO2 which "blasts away" Halitosis

TRY NOW TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE

For guaranteed treatment
Call: 890-8380 ; 895-5532
897-2466 ; 895-6775
09177965859 ; 09202267717
Free delivery w/in Metro Manila

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

DIAMONDS
NIBOR
Nibor Diamond Buying Office of the Philippines

FREE APPRAISAL

Highest Price and Instant Cash for antigo and modern cut Diamond from 2 carats up to 30 carats.

Pawnshop owners and agents are welcome.

By Appointment only:
Mobile: (0917) 840-1573

INTERNATIONALLY EXPERIENCED GEMOLOGISTS

40 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Located at
ROMAN Jewels, Inc.
298 Mezzanine Floor
Shangri-La Hotel Makati.

iGov FORUM
Knowledge for better governance.™

Understanding Government Disbursement Procedures

Supplying goods and services to the government? Do you have a hundred and one questions regarding payment? Then join this forum:

✓ *to get an overview of the government's disbursement system*
✓ *to learn about documentary requirements for claims against public monies, and payment procedures for goods and services*
✓ *to obtain answers to common problems in payment*
All these... and more!

LECTURER: Prof. Emy Boncodin
Former Secretary, Dept. of Budget & Management

Registration: P2,000 ONLY!

WHEN: March 14, 2007
1:00PM - 5:00PM (Register by 12:30PM)
WHERE: Roof Deck, Prestige Tower, F. Ortigas Jr. Rd. (formerly Emerald Ave.), Ortigas Center, Pasig City

FOR INQUIRIES: Call 914-4059, look for Monica/Badette or EMAIL: incitegov@globelines.com.ph

PAY BEFORE MARCH 6 AND GET P500 DISCOUNT!

Less 5% for group registration (min. of 3)!
Limited seats available so register early!
Fax registration forms to 634-1334

Organized by: INCITEGov
International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance

"You CAN'T solve LACTOSE INTOLERANCE overnight. But you can FIX it in 5 minutes..."

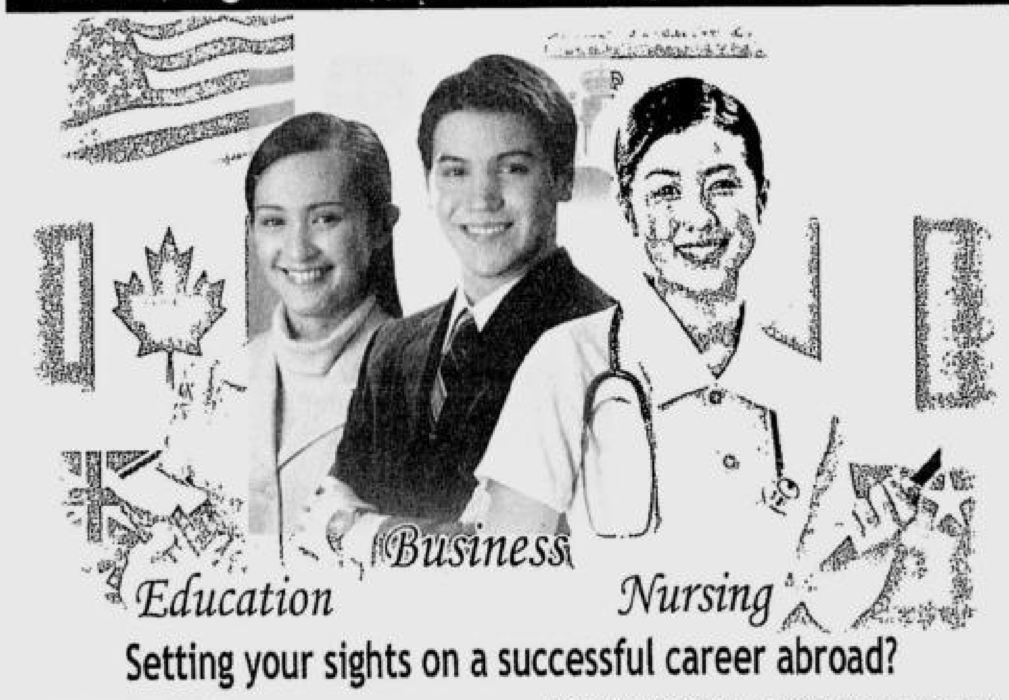
CHEW 1 TO 3 LACTEEZE TABLETS 5 MINUTES BEFORE TAKING MILK OR DAIRY PRODUCTS!

LACTEEZE
HOTLINE: 0917-820-2020

email info: mylacteeze@gmail.com

AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AT mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

Meet the global demand with a global education.



Setting your sights on a successful career abroad?

- GREAT TEACHERS
- MODERN FACILITIES
- EXCELLENT PROGRAMS
- AFFORDABLE TUITION FEE
- STRONG NETWORK OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TECHVOC COURSES OFFERED : CAREGIVER / MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION

For inquiries, please contact the Admissions Office
Tel.: 757.5588 to 91 or 818.0945 to 46
Locals 814 to 815 . Mobile: 0918.924.7810
E-mail: info@gcic.edu.ph Website : www.gcic.edu.ph

GCIC is the yellow building near Jollibee, Chowking and Shell Gas Station inside The Fort, Bonifacio Global City

*CHED RECOGNITION GR permit no. 37 series of 2006, (BS Nursing)
GR permit no. 34 series of 2006 (BSBA)

Global standards. Global Opportunities.

Global City Innovative College
The Fort, Bonifacio Global City
3/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor 2nd Ave., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

We belong to the top 25 % in terms of the Nursing Board Passing Rate
Classes Start June 13, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2007

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 22 No. 72

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

Harsh words

EDITORIAL

LAST WEEK'S MEETING BETWEEN SEN. JUAN Ponce Enrile and UN human rights investigator Philip Alston—perhaps the better word is encounter—was reported widely, in large part because Enrile had harsh words for Alston.

We suspect that Enrile, the chair of the Senate human rights committee, was not exactly looking forward to the meeting in the first place. But we have a pretty good idea what set him off: Alston, who is the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, was impertinent enough to ask him the unavoidable question: Why was his committee not conducting an investigation into the alleged summary killings?

As Enrile later told reporters, he gave Alston and his team the benefit of his wisdom.

"I told them, 'Look, have you ever handled an insurgency problem in your country?' They said 'No.' And I said: 'Well, don't lecture to us about how to handle an insurgency problem.'"

Let's stop for a moment and consider this nugget—no, this mother lode—of wisdom. Enrile seems to suggest that a mission like Alston's is not fact-finding in nature but political in character, with ready-made conclusions. We do not agree. The mission has been very much a listening tour; even the families of victims who had refused to testify before the Melo Commission have been eager to seek out Alston—precisely because they see his mission as truly independent.

Enrile also suggests that non-Filipinos have no business inquiring into Philippine concerns, as though human rights abuses observe national borders. We do not agree. The spate of unsolved political killings, which even by the police's own (necessarily lower) count has already topped a hundred, is a human rights crisis that needs to be resolved. If the Arroyo administration had met the crisis with the proper response, then there would have been no need for the United Nations, or any international agency for that matter, to get involved. But President Macapagal-Arroyo herself has singled out for praise the likes of ex-general Jovito Palparan, who brags that he may have been the inspiration behind some of the killings. The situation calls for all men of good will, regardless of nationality, to express their concern and demand an accounting. Enrile's stance reminds us of that of the hardline Burmese junta.

Enrile also suggests that the ongoing communist insurgency provides the true context for the killings. We do not agree, at least not completely. From the looks of it, the series of killings constitutes an unwritten state policy that reverses some two decades' worth of peacemaking: Instead of encouraging insurgents to abandon the armed struggle and enter the political mainstream, the Arroyo administration has opted to heed that faction in the military and police that sees cooperation as complacency.

But Enrile had more to say to Alston and the rest of the UN team. "They do not understand our problem because there is no insurgency in their countries. If this country sinks, they're safe in their countries. The Filipinos will be the ones to suffer."

In case Enrile has not noticed, **all the victims** of the extrajudicial executions have been Filipinos. Filipinos are already suffering. And if this country sinks, to use Enrile's vivid turn of phrase, it will be precisely because the killings would have gotten out of hand, leading to the loss of the rule of law.

We would understand Enrile's antipathy toward the UN mission if, in previous positions, on other occasions, he had taken a stand against other "interventions" by representatives of the international community. But Enrile was one of those senators who voted to retain US military bases in the country—a bigger source of influence in Philippine affairs than a temporary delegation from the United Nations. Enrile was in power when the Marcos dictatorship inaugurated the reign of influence by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. We can go on, but the point is clear: Enrile has nothing against foreign participation in Philippine affairs when it suits him.

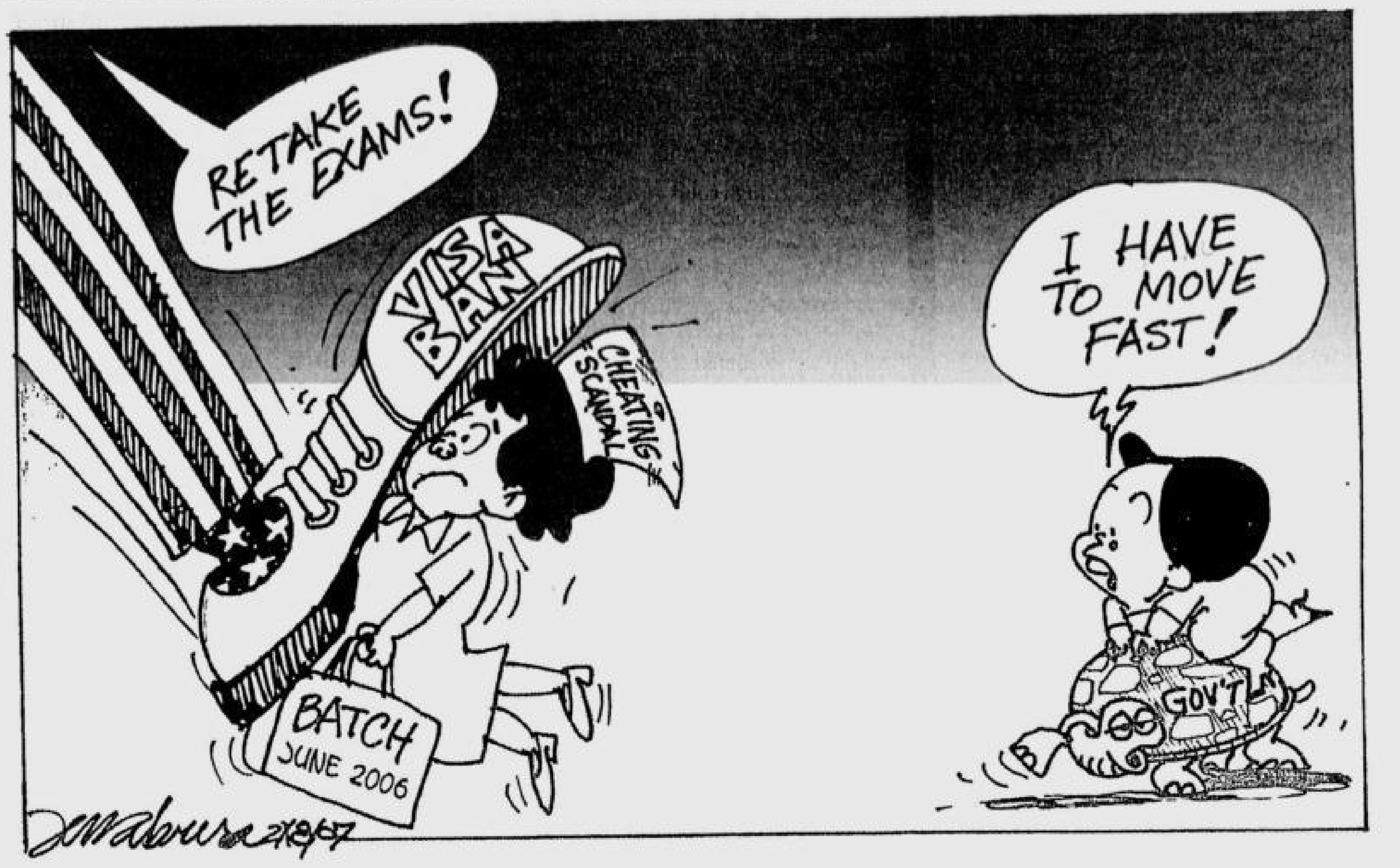
Curiously, a UN human rights mission does not. This proves yet again that the Senate erred grievously in electing Enrile, the administrator of martial law, as human rights committee chair. Perhaps what Enrile needs is a lecture on the responsibilities of power.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • *Chief, News Day Desk* NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Executive Vice President DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation SANDY SIMON R. YAP

Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



A worthy promotion

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I WAS DELIGHTED TO LEARN LAST WEEK OF the appointment of then Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura to the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. I have known him for quite a while and have no doubt that he fully deserves his promotion.

I first met him at the San Beda College of Law when I was invited to teach there by Dean Feliciano Ledesma in 1969. Tony was already teaching then after having placed seventh in the 1967 bar examinations. I knew him then as Tony and wondered why some were calling him Ed and also why he had graying hair for one relatively young. Now I know that his second name is Eduardo and black hair makes him look younger and handsomer.

I need not repeat here his many outstanding credentials and record of public service because they have been sufficiently published by the media. But I do want to stress that he served two terms in the House of Representatives and was one of the prosecutors in the Estrada impeachment trial. Of course, to further qualify him for his present position, he has taught for years as a professor and bar reviewer in Political Law and has written a book on the subject.

The only flaw in his appointment is that it was extended to him by President Macapagal-Arroyo. I have little confidence in the lady's ambitions and operations and her "lapse in judgment" concerning the Garci tapes. I think the cover-ups of the fertilizer fund misuse and the Bolante escape, along with other unexplained scandals in the executive department, could not have been committed if she had been more vigilant as the chief constitutional enforcer of the laws.

But while some may suspect that Nachura's conduct as President Arroyo's appointee to the Supreme Court will be dictated by her, I will be the first to reject that apprehension. Nachura is his own man and will decide as his conscience bids him. I have no doubt that his decisions will always be based on the correct and courageous interpretation of the law, especially the Constitution, of which he is more knowledgeable than some of his colleagues on the Court.

He and Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno are the constitutionalists now sitting on the Supreme Court, and knowing both of them well, I am sure they can lead in the proper understanding of the fundamental law regardless of the motivations or instructions of those sitting in the pinnacles of power in the political departments.

The opinions of the present justices of the high tribunal proclaim their respect for the rule of law above all else. This is true not only of those who voted against President Arroyo in the several important cases decided last year but also those who supported her. It is unfair to suggest that the justices who dissented in those cases did so because of their debt of gratitude to GMA who had appointed them. In the absence of conclusive evidence to the contrary, we should presume that they voted as their principles and not as GMA commanded them.

I was in the audience when the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the initiative on Sept. 26 last year. Solicitor General Nachura was there to argue for the petitioner, and I could only sympathize with him as he pleaded for a cause that was even then already lost if one went by the pointed interrogation of the justices (including some who later voted for the petition) and the reaction of the spectators who were clearly against it. As I reported on the proceedings in this column on Oct. 8, 2006:

"Listening to the oral arguments on the Chacha in the Supreme Court the other Tuesday, I could not help feeling sorry for the lead counsel, both cordial colleagues of mine, who looked like doomed derelicts on a sinking boat. I suppose they were performing the unfamiliar role of defending a cause they did not really believe in but were supporting just the same only out of a sense of duty they should not have accepted in the first place."

I was referring to Solicitor General Nachura and Justice Bernardo Pardo, but neither of them resented my remarks about them. Justice Pardo and I sat together at a recent luncheon and he was all geniality. As for the former Solgen, he left a luncheon conference one day last month when he learned I was in his office while waiting for my turn to deliver an MCLE lecture before the OSG lawyers. We're friends, Ed and I, and I wish him Godspeed in his new opportunity to interpret and defend the Constitution.

Give and forgive

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A DYING WIFE who whispered to her husband: "When I die, I want you to marry Maria."

"But I thought she was your enemy," said the husband.

"That's why I wan't you to marry her, so that she will suffer too," said the wife as she breathed her last.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 6, 27-38), Jesus commands us to love our enemies. It is easy to love those who are good to us, but to love those who hurt us and do bad to us is something that goes against our very human nature. Without God's grace this whole perspective would be senseless and even stupid.

* * *

Before we can love our enemies, we first have to forgive them, which in itself is a task difficult enough. Perhaps, we can start by praying for them: "Lord, I surrender to you my enemies. *Bahala ka na lang sa kanila* (I entrust them unto you, Lord)." So think now of those people whom you dislike or hate, and surrender them unto the Lord. And when you say *bahala ka na* Lord, don't give suggestions like "*bahala ka na* Lord if you want them to get sick or go bankrupt or be disabled the rest of their lives."

* * *

Now I know that our much admired Manny Pacquiao has enemies in our country—those who have pushed him into the political arena. He has been pushed into a fight he has not really prepared or trained for. Even if he wins, how will he handle the power and the responsibility that will come with the office? May God forgive his pushers and users.

* * *

There is a tendency to belittle and see gospel values, such as forgiveness, as soft and reactionary. On the contrary, when one forgives, one is focused and one is pro-active. When one forgives, one is able to transcend and rise above the obstacle and, thus, is able to move on. When one forgives, one elevates the level of life from that of "wall-keeping" to that of "bridge-building."

* * *

It is not what people do to us that hurts us. In the long run, it is how we react to what people do to us that hurts us deeply, and even permanently. May we never succumb to the easy lure of hatred, bitterness, cynicism, apathy and despair because we have been wronged.

* * *

Someone put it so beautifully when he said that we are like beasts when we kill, like men when we judge, and like God when we forgive. It is easy to be like beasts, and natural to act like men, but the challenge—through our Lord Jesus Christ—is to be like God, to be "sons and daughters in the Son," and to be inserted in the Trinitarian circle of love.

* * *

There are two marks of a Christian in this world: Giving and forgiving. How giving are you? Give *na* give *ka ba*? Or are you one give, two gives, three gives only? How forgiving are you? Are you forgiving, but...? Forgiving, in order that...? The Gospel reminds us today: "The measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

* * *

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. The Church calls us once more to "repent and believe in the Gospel." Repentance begins with forgiveness from God, which in turn flows into forgiving others and asking forgiveness from others. Along with true repentance is forgiving oneself and accepting and celebrating God's unconditional love.

* * *

More than disciplining our body with acts of penance like fasting and abstinence, let us focus on disciplining our hearts to avoid sin and its occasions; remove hatred, pride and greed; and decide to love more and to love more truly.

* * *

May the season of Lent be a real time for national healing and purification. The coming elections should be a timely and wonderful opportunity for us as a nation to rise above our differences and start afresh. However, this is not likely to happen with the way elections are done in our country, where the bottom line is money, money and money, and where ghosts and operators can suddenly appear in the final tally. To them we say, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return."

* * *

Life is indeed full of happy and sad moments. Don't give up on your faith for God will keep you afloat. Just remember to call on Him. For prayers, text, FJREQ<your name><your prayer request> and send to 2948 for Globe/Sun or 3940 for Smart. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

The Philippine Association for Counselor Education Research and Supervision (PACERS) will have its annual convention on Feb. 21-23, 2007 at the Bayview Hotel, with the theme "Relationships at Risk: Issues and Interventions." For more details please contact (02) 536-0226 or Fax 536-0235.

* * *

It's the year of the fire pig in the Chinese New Year! Actually the pig is very giving and a very forgiving animal, unlike some pigs we know in our midst.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to give and forgive while I live. Amen.

Liberty and prosperity under the rule of law

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

TO MY LAST COLUMN, I RECEIVED SEVERAL reactions, including some from the United States and Europe. One that demands immediate response is from the "Values for Development" seminar in Cebu last Feb. 16: Did I, as chief justice, have a vision-mission, and did I accomplish it? Equally important: Did I, as the judiciary's leader, exemplify core values?

Let me just state the facts and let the readers be the judge.

Early on, I did repeatedly spell out my vision: a judiciary that safeguards the liberty and nurtures the prosperity of our people under the rule of law.

To realize this vision, I drew up specific missions for each of my major constituencies. From the 2,000 justices and judges, I asked for adherence to four **core values**, what I call the "four ins" of a good magistrate: independence, integrity, industry and intelligence. From the 26,000 judicial employees, I pleaded for "DHL": dedication to duty, honesty in every way and loyalty to the Supreme Court. And from the 45,000 lawyers, I called for "EC": ethics and competence.

Finally, I asked all these sectors to help reform the judiciary by fighting the "ACID" problems that corrode justice: limited **access** to justice by the poor, **corruption**, **incompetence** and **delay** in the delivery of quality judgments.

* * *

Safeguarding liberty. How do courts secure freedom? In litigations involving civil liberties, the scales of justice should weigh heavily against the government and in favor of the people, especially the poor and the weak. This rule is commonly referred to as "strict scrutiny."

Conformably, the Supreme Court promulgated last year three landmark decisions expressly championing strict scrutiny. First, the Court struck down the main parts of Executive Order 464 and upheld the right of Congress to summon executive officials for investigations in aid of legislation, and the people's right to information.

Second, it scuttled the so-called Calibrated Preemptive Response policy or CPR and ruled in favor of the people's right to demonstrate for a redress of grievances.

Third, the high court voided salient features of Presidential Proclamation 1017 and recognized fundamental rights even when a "State of National Emergency" had been validly declared.

* * *

Nurturing prosperity. While safeguarding liberty is a fairly common judicial task, nurturing prosperity is something many lawyers do not readily concede as a judicial mandate. They claim that this is outside the judiciary's realm.

However, I believe that our Constitution unmistakably decrees not only political but also economic rights. Moreover, big business and philanthropic groups, both here and abroad, as well as international developmental agencies (World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, Asian Development Bank) have shown that political freedoms are meaningless to people suffering from grinding poverty and debilitating disease.

How can the judiciary nurture prosperity? In litigations involving the economy, courts must defer as much as possible to the actions taken by the President and Congress. This is known as "deferential" interpretation, the opposite of strict scrutiny.

The Court has implemented this deferential stance in several cases. First, in Tañada vs Angara, it upheld our membership in the World Trade Organization, saying that the issue of whether the nation should adopt liberalization, globalization and deregulation should be left to elected policymakers.

Second, the Court acceded to the wisdom of Congress and the President in imposing the kind and amount of value added taxes needed to propel the economy.

Third, the Court upheld the Mining Law, holding that elected leaders should be granted "reasonable leeway to enable them to attract foreign investments and expertise, and to secure for our people and our posterity the blessings of prosperity and peace."

* * *

Rule of law. Liberty and prosperity should be implemented only in accordance with the Constitution and the law. The Charter commands that "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

In their impatience, some people immediately condemn a suspect, because "lengthy procedures" should not stand in the way of justice. There is an inherent danger in this argument. When people ignore the rule of law and belittle due process, they really abet dictatorship.

No person, no matter how powerful or talented, can be above the law. And no one, no matter how lowly or ignorant, should be denied the equal protection of law.

The rule of law differentiates democracy from the rule of the mob. That the gallery overwhelmingly cheers for a team, despite repeated violations of the rules, will not entitle that team to the trophy.

That, allegedly, six million people have signed a petition to change the Constitution, in violation of legal procedures, is of no moment; it cannot be allowed, the Court stressed. The rule of law does not tolerate short cuts and bully tactics. The end never justifies the means.

I believe that the activist policy of the Supreme Court on liberty issues, its non-interventionist stance on prosperity questions, and its steadfast insistence on the rule of law have immensely contributed to the nation's stability and economic well-being.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Of weddings and pigs

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AFTER THAT RECORD-BREAKING ATTEMPT AT mass kissing by the Manila Bay (which may have contributed a few notches upwards to the already warming global climate), could mass weddings be far behind?

If we still needed proof of Filipinos' amorous nature, then the activities we witnessed on or around Valentine's Day should provide it. Preceded by thousands of couples locking lips around midnight, Valentine's Day in the country opened with early morning TV shows reporting breathlessly on the rising prices of flowers, special Valentine's packages of restaurants, and even the preparations being made by motel chains. Driving home from the airport, I espied countless couples dressed in matching red outfits, clutching roses and balloons, and unashamedly wearing their sentiments on their besotted faces. The roads were gridlocked by vehicles ferrying couples to their various assignations, and street vendors approached couples in cars with cellophane-wrapped roses and suggestive leers.

I don't know if it is despite or because of all this amorous activity, but mayors and other officials don't seem to ever run out of couples to recruit for their mass weddings. And there always seems to be one or two pairs in their 70s or 80s who think making the ties between them legal and official will be their last mortal act on earth.

* * *

A COMMON response of newlyweds taking part in these mass nuptials, when asked what took them so long to do it, is that they didn't have enough money to get married "properly" before. Such is the pressure on about-to-be-wed couples that a wedding, which is simply a legal process by which a man and woman (at least until a law on same-sex marriage is passed) publicly declare their commitment to each other, can't possibly be staged these days without the usual and expected hoopla—from a mass feeding (otherwise known as a reception) to dressing up friends and family in ridiculous frippery, to blinding well-wishers with a dazzling diamond for which, said a comic, "children died in Sierra Leone."

Which is such an irony because, however much we declare ourselves believers in love, courtship and marriage, so many among us allow the peripheral arrangements to (or lack of wherewithal for them) get in the way of doing the right and proper thing, at the right time. Wouldn't it be much better to be wed in simple and heartfelt rites before a civil or church official, than to go ahead and cohabit while you're saving up for the whole shebang? Then again, who ever said people in love and lust were ever logical?

* * *

BY WAY of a follow-up to that column on pigs by Michael Tan, it might interest you to know that in development circles, development agencies and funding groups are now discouraging pig-raising or pig-fattening as an income-generating activity.

The reason, said Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan—who, aside from being a former health secretary, also worked for years for Unicef at the national, regional and international level—is that pig-raising has proven to be more trouble than the porkers are worth. Toto Divino, program officer of the Canada Fund, said computations show that when the fattened pig is finally sold after months of looking after it, the profit amounts to a grand total of "50 centavos a day."

When a rural family receives one or two piglets for fattening, they said, the work of raising and feeding the creatures usually falls on the mother, who ends up, Galvez Tan noted, "spending more time with the pigs than with her children." It is the woman who must prepare the pig's feed, and when there isn't enough pig slop (who can have slop when there's not enough food in the first place?), she has to gather banana stalks for feed, cut them up and cook them. (But when there are more pigs, raising them then becomes a family effort.)

"There's also hardly any supplemental benefit to be had from pigs," continued Divino. Unlike chickens, whose eggs can be used to enrich the diet of the family, or cows or goats which can be milked, there's hardly any other benefit from a pig, at least before it gets big enough to be sold for profit.

Also, pigs require more care than other livestock (disposing of their waste is another problem) and are prone to diseases. During my brief stay in Iloilo, for instance, the local TV channels were filled with ads for pig medicines and supplements—everything from boosting their diet and growth to fighting parasites and swine flu.

* * *

BUT the thing is, said Galvez Tan and Divino, Filipinos just love their pigs! When planners meet with rural families to discuss possible projects for alleviating their problems, the rural folk usually bring up pig-raising as a possible venture. "And when we tell them about the very low profit margin, the people say that they don't compute it on a daily basis, and the money they make from selling the pig is a form of forced savings," Divino said.

Instead of pig-raising, funders now suggest raising goats and chickens instead. Galvez Tan, for one, is a particular champion of goats, which don't require much care (they are left to forage for themselves and, unlike pigs, can subsist on grass and scrub), produce milk than can be sold or used for the household's diet, and can be butchered. Then again, a goat is not halfway as cute as a cuddly pig!

My Tita Fe Gavino used to raise pigs in her backyard. One day, the pig escaped its enclosure and it was already running down the street when my aunt saw it. "Hurry, catch that pig!" she yelled at her children as she rushed out the door, "that's your brother's tuition running away!" Then as now, pigs were literally piggy-banks, savings accounts on four feet, receptacles of Filipino dreams and aspirations.

Now, they're killing students

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE LATEST NAME IN THIS GROWING LIST IS that of Farly Alcantara II, 22, a graduating student of the Camarines Norte State College in the capital town of Daet. Farly was the former spokesperson of the League of Filipino Students (LFS) in Camarines Norte. A lone gunman shot him five times with a .45 caliber pistol, just 300 meters away from the police headquarters. On the day he was murdered, Farly had just won third place in an inter-school business plan competition. He was on his way home.

The killing of this young student is not an isolated case. In March 2006, Cris Hugo, the regional coordinator of the LFS in Bicol and a student of Bicol University, was shot dead under similar circumstances. Four months later, in July, Reymon Guran, a student of Aquinas University in Legazpi, was shot dead inside a bus. He was the LFS spokesperson for Albay.

Also last year, in the early morning of June 26, two students of the University of the Philippines were abducted by armed men wearing ski masks from the house where they were staying in Hagonoy, Bulacan. The military denied taking them, and to this day the two young women have not been found. Karen Empeño is a student of sociology and a member of the LFS in UP Diliman. Sherlyn Cadapan is a student of human kinetics and a former member of the UP Student Council.

If these killings and disappearances had happened in the late '60s, I am very certain they would have triggered a nationwide student revolt. Every funeral procession for a murdered student would be an occasion for a massive demonstration against the existing political order. There would be sit-ins in every campus all over the country. Schools would be forced to shut down, and the restlessness of the young would be unleashed against every sign and symbol of government authority. That none of this is happening today speaks eloquently and sadly about the prevailing state of student consciousness in our country.

It is a consciousness that is de-politicized and consumed by the culture of inwardness. It devotes little passion for anything else outside of the personal. It has no room for national identity, and is basically skeptical of any concern for social solidarity. It is self-indulgent. It looks upon education solely as a passport to individual mobility. It takes for granted the terms of an unchanging economy of poverty, and seeks relief primarily in the promise of overseas migration. It has a negative view of politicians as a class. Yet it reserves the same disdain for social activists. It provides little space, if any, for any social philosophy or ideology, although it is often swamped by religious visions of personal salvation.

We don't have to idealize the consciousness of a previous generation in order to say that there was greater political commitment among the youth from the late '60s to the early '70s. The students from this period formed the tail-end of that generation of young people whose own growth to adulthood paralleled the Filipino nation's painful transition to self-government. The quest for autonomy held for them a meaning that was simultaneously personal and social. They thought of themselves as the bearers of many unfinished revolutions. They looked at education not only as a path to individual success, but also as a debt to be paid in the future.

When Marcos declared martial law in 1972, the militant students bore the brunt of the dictatorial regime's repressiveness. Many were forced to go underground. Those who had the means went abroad to live as exiles. Many were detained and tortured; not a few died and were buried in unmarked graves. Those who survived the Marcos prisons were forced by their families to abandon revolution as a career, and to shift to safer pursuits. Thus was a whole politicized successor generation sacrificed at the altar of authoritarianism.

In the early '80s, when things had somewhat settled down, the survivors of that generation formed the first wave of socially-oriented non-government organizations. These were the seeds of today's civil society. Some ex-activists joined the mass media, where they found a new venue for their remaining radical impulses. But normalization also multiplied the spaces for absorption into the establishment. In many ways, the 1986 people power uprising, with its progressive and conservative themes, was very much a product of this generation—a child as much of the middle class as of the politically adventurous '60s and '70s.

I think of the students being murdered today as the remnants of a radical tradition stretching from the Katipunan to the First Quarter Storm. Their numbers have considerably dwindled. They have little support in the pacified student communities in which they operate. This is what makes them easy targets for isolation and liquidation.

None of the students who have been killed or abducted under the Arroyo regime took up arms against the government. The group to which they belong, the League of Filipino Students, founded in 1977, is not an illegal, clandestine, or armed organization. Indeed it maintains a useful website on the Internet, in which it describes its radical ideological orientation and bares its sympathies.

The murder of politically-active students like Farly Alcantara II should shame any government. Without the tradition they desperately keep alive against all odds, no meaningful social change is possible.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

The noise of democracy

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

IT'S MIDNIGHT. THERE'S COFFEE. AND CAKE, AND THE tinkle of canned music from the grocery's loudspeakers. We're all in our twenties, all living on our own, reckless and restless, prone to discussions over nationhood, nipple tape and Noam Chomsky. Talk leads, as talk eventually leads, to politics. I ask the boy in the denim jacket and with the new wedding ring if he's registered to vote. He says he is. I ask for whom he's voting, and he says he probably won't.

"Won't what?" I ask. Won't vote.

He calls it "political efficacy." I had to ask him what he meant.

Political efficacy, he says, is his judgment of the effectiveness of his vote, a rational analysis on how much value it could give him versus the price he has to pay. He ticks them off on his fingers: a whole day in the precinct to register, half the next day to follow up, hours away from work and his wife, the numbing tedium, the cost of the trips back and forth, ink on the finger, sweat on the collar—and all for what? It's not as if his vote is going to count. How much impact can one vote have among literal millions? Not that it matters, he says, because he's bound to be cheated anyway.

According to recent surveys, a large percentage of voters qualified to register come from the youth sector, yet only a slim fraction is actually registered. A research shows that the choice not to vote comes from a feeling that their vote is useless, while others are hedging their future not in the Philippines, but in other countries. In most of the places I've been invited to speak to young people, roughly one in five raised their hands when asked if they're registered, the rest suddenly become very interested in fingernails and the tips of their shoes.

People power is dead, and no rally in the street will ever have the power to grant the same mandate Corazon Aquino enjoyed. The election is what people power has always been in a democracy, the only sustainable means to punish politicians who have failed, and to replace them with statesmen. One man, one vote, and even if one vote may not be responsible for a victory, each one makes up the millions that matter.

The senatorial race is a beautiful example of what happens when leaders are left unpunished by the vote. Senators win their positions as national representatives, standing for the beliefs and ideologies of the men and women who voted them into power, ideally creating a group with a reasonable sampling of the Philippine population's best. This year, the dynasties are at it again. Aquilino Pimentel sits in the Senate while his son Koko campaigns to fill a vacant slot. Pia Cayetano's brother Alan Peter is fighting for his slot to run, while the Aquinos are out in full force. Yet the senior Pimentel and the lady Cayetano are already senators—if they are unable to represent brothers and sons who claim to have the same sensibilities and ideologies, how do we expect them to represent the people? And it does not matter if Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Noynoy Aquino are running for different tickets—if Oreta had a choice, she would have run with the opposition, too.

Alan Peter says that in the end, the choice is up to the people. It's not as simple as that—professional campaign managers claim it takes at least a hundred million pesos to launch one senatorial candidate, so options become limited as funds go around and name-recall becomes the deciding factor.

It's not just the dynasties that are left to flit scot-free; the fluttering of candidates from one loyalty to another is another event typical of what many predict to be the country's dirtiest elections since Marcos. Sen. Edgardo Angara, and former Senators Tito Sotto and Oreta, all of whom publicly accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of cheating FPJ in the 2004 presidential election, are now marching to the beat of the administration's drum.

It is the same machinery that seduces the principled into delusions of virtue. Human rights advocate Joker Arroyo, who ran under Ms Arroyo's ticket in 2004, claims "Nothing that has happened since gives us reason not to do the same in our reelection bid." It is interesting to note that the man who fought tooth and nail for the release of political prisoners during martial law now defines hundreds of extrajudicial killings and heavy accusations of cheating as "nothing." Loren Legarda, of the tears and the handkerchiefs during the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada, now takes every opportunity to mention his name. Senatorial hopefuls camp outside his rest house in the hope of that one picture with his highness that may kick up their votes. These are the same men who are members of the "grand and broad" Genuine Opposition that has only now decided on a party name, never mind a single policy.

And this is why we have to take sides. Neutrality will never help anyone but the oppressor; silence is an encouragement to the corrupt, the greedy and the tyrannical. Whether it is due to ignorance or a conscious, steadfast disregard for the bloody misery of everyday Philippines—which is more likely the case—a refusal to vote is a virtual washing of hands. "Our elections are free," says Bill Stern. "It's in the results where eventually we pay."

A few weeks ago, I spoke to the editor in chief of The Philippine Collegian, or Kule, the University of the Philippines' hard-hitting student publication. Karl Francis Castro nonchalantly announced that he wasn't registered for the elections—he shrugged, smiled and claimed he was busy at the time. It smacks of the same sort of hypocrisy his newspaper repeatedly denounces.

Alan Peter is right, the choice is up to the people—assuming the people choose to choose. That there are unprincipled people running for government positions is not a surprise. The word politician, after all, can be broken down into its original derivations. "Poly," for "many," and "tic" for "bloodsucking pests."

The ticks may win, but each vote against them is a protest of innocence. Like Edsa, it is a means to an end, not the end in itself. There is a need to protect the polls, and a greater need to make that protection count. This country should not be a place where deceit is rewarded, and the greedy call themselves servants of the people.

The last few years have been years of astonishing viciousness and violence. Nobel Peace Prize Winner Ellie Wiesel once said, "What all these victims need above all is to know that they are not alone; that we shall not be forgetting them, that when their voices are stifled, we shall lend them ours." To vote is to take a stand, to choose a side, to add one more voice to the millions whose shouts defy the brutality of what passes as daily life in 21st-century Philippines.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

PHILIPPINE-MADE

Energy-saving gadgets and e-transport

PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL WARMING WHEN THEY USE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, switch on lights, cook meals, take a bus, or drive a car. It is estimated that a household that uses 980 kwh a month contributes at least 912 kg in carbon dioxide emissions.

A household can reduce its CO2 emissions by adopting energy-saving devices available on the market. Shifting to compact fluorescent lamps from incandescent bulbs can lower electricity use by 75 percent.

Gadgets developed by a Filipino engineer can further lower a household's electricity consumption. A "ref saver" that Ramon Castillo invented can save a household about P270 a month.

His aircon timer can generate P900 in savings a month, while his electronic ballast can cut a lamp's electricity consumption by up to 55 percent. He has also developed a battery-powered bicycle and tricycle.

Embracing these technologies can help slow global warming and generate employment in the country.

Firm comes up with innovations

By Tessa R. Salazar

YEARS BEFORE THE Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that mankind was "very likely" causing global warming and Al Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" brought the message across, a Filipino electrical engineer had already been producing gadgets that save on energy and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Imagine mobility without burning fossil fuels. Imagine saving on electricity even while fast asleep at night. Imagine further making money from your efforts at slowing climate change. Imagine being like Ramon Castillo.

The inevitability of global warming may be looming larger, but that only makes Castillo want to build more electric bikes and energy-saving devices.

In 1983, Castillo was a senior engineer at Intel. After four years, he left the high-paying job to start a one-man electronics subcontracting enterprise.

FILIPINO inventor Ramon Castillo

With a capital of P200,000, Castillo was his own accountant, delivery boy, and tech guy. His gross income after six months was about P400, and he had to pay the monthly office rent of P2,000.

He realized his business would be going nowhere if all he did was accept subcontracts. The gold mine lay in making off-the-shelf products, he concluded. That was when Innovatronix Inc. started to take off.

Now, 20 years later, his electronics firm is worth about P50 million and employs some 200 people. Innovatronix focuses on producing innovative electronic products for consumer and industrial use.

Castillo says his dream is to be the first Filipino to create and lead a successful home-grown technology company.

Scanning the local entrepreneurial landscape, there is, indeed, a lack of a local icon comparable to the likes of Bill Gates or Steve Jobs.

"Filipino engineers cannot find a local role model to relate to," he says.

Castillo considers his decision to stay in the Philippines a wise move because Innovatronix is helping keep skilled Filipinos stay in the country. It counts among its employees 14 software developers and programmers, and a number of technicians.

The home-grown company, which has a factory in Antipolo, can be reached at info@innovatronix.com.

Can travel without pedaling 30 km at a speed of up to 35 kph before batteries lose power.
RECHARGE TIME: 3 hours
PRICE: P19,800

e-bike

CASTILLO TOOK A LONG, HARD look at nonmotorized modes of transport, particularly the bicycle and tricycle. He figured there had to be an easier way for people to enjoy one of the most efficient human-powered machines ever invented. So, why not attach an electric engine to the bikes and tricycles so riders can travel farther? The obvious added benefit is the absence of greenhouse gas emissions.

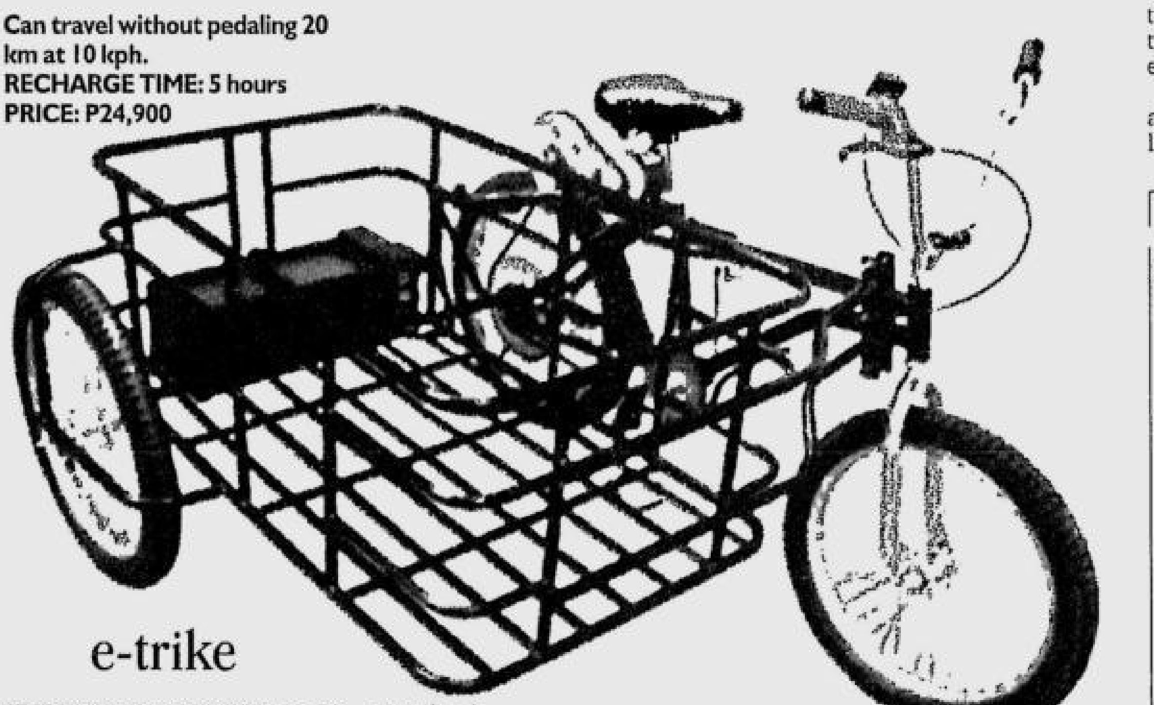
By 2004, Castillo was producing and selling the e-bike and e-trike in limited numbers.

Riders who use the electric engine can expect to coast along for up to 30 km (depending on the incline of the road) and travel 35 kph before the rechargeable batteries lose power. The product info claims that the operational cost for the e-bike is eight centavos per km.

The e-bikes were mostly sold to security agencies that employ roaming guards to patrol subdivisions and large factories and compounds. Castillo says that others bought e-bikes as a novel gift for loved ones.

"The e-bike can also be for the 'young once' who can no longer pedal themselves for 30 km but still yearn for the joys of biking," adds Castillo.

An improved model, which has a 3-speed gear for the motor, will be available late this month.



Can travel without pedaling 20 km at 10 kph.
RECHARGE TIME: 5 hours
PRICE: P24,900

e-trike

THE E-TRIKE IS ESSENTIALLY AN e-bike with a sidecar. But if the e-bike is configured as a mountain bike, the e-trike is of BMX design. The e-trike also runs on a much slower pace—a maximum 10 kph for up to 20 km on a flat surface before the battery needs recharging.

The e-trike is marketed to environmentally conscious entrepreneurs. Castillo claims that the sidecar and the engine can carry a load of up to 200 kg. Castillo says the e-trike can be a cost-effective way for *yayas* to bring their wards to the village preschool.

How cost effective is the e-trike? Castillo computes that a full 20-km trip on the trike costs P2.20 per recharging. "That cost is practically negligible," he stresses. The operational cost for the e-trike is 11 centavos per km, according to the product info.

The two types of bikes are sold with separate chargers. Two 12-volt DC lead acid batteries power each e-bike and e-trike.

Castillo says the bikes are made for special applications and Innovatronix does not intend these to be mass-produced.

But he says that this could be the start of a bigger, more mass-based project. "When you engineer something (for the first time), you cannot immediately build a space shuttle. You have to start somewhere."

He says the electric bikes could eventually evolve into special purpose vehicles.

The improved model of the e-trike is scheduled to come out in May.

Ref saver

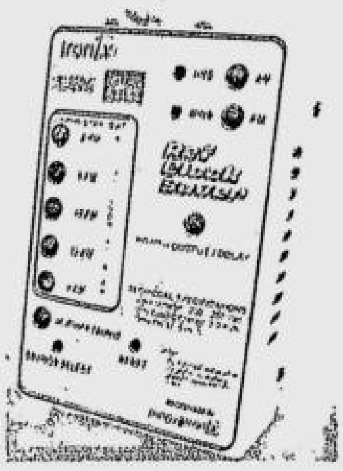
ONE OF INNOVATRONIX'S INgeniously simple products, the "ref saver," was an idea many years in the making. Castillo relates that he was an engineering student at the University of the Philippines when he became obsessed with the family's refrigerator, which had to run full power for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even when the entire household was asleep.

After computing the savings the family would get if the ref was turned on for just 18 hours a day, he set about unplugging the ref before he went to bed at night (around midnight) and bade a household member to wake up and plug the ref at 6 a.m. Castillo realized that this plug-unplug-plug principle could be automated, giving him and his housemates more time to "sleep and save."

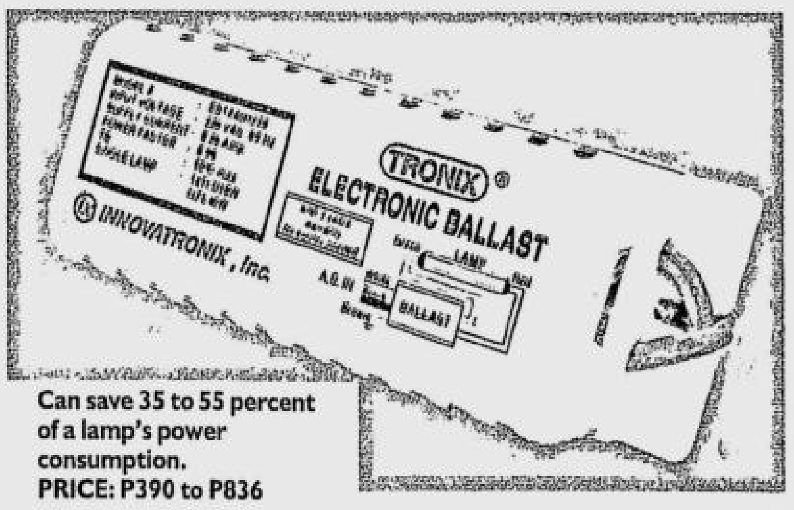
Castillo eventually devised the "ref clock saver," which he explained was basically a timer. The user simply sets the time he or she wants the ref to be on "save" mode. On this mode, the gadget allows the refrigerator to run for 10 minutes every hour. But wouldn't the food inside the ref spoil as a result? Not so, says Castillo.

Since the save mode would normally be used only when the household is asleep (ref is off 52 minutes every hour during save mode), the eight minutes is enough to keep temperatures inside the ref consistent. When everyone resumes opening the ref in the morning, they wouldn't notice the difference.

The ref saver (which was formerly called No Frost) saves users from regularly defrosting their refrigerators (for those refs that do not have the automatic no-frost feature). In effect, the ref saver becomes the defrosting trigger when it's on the save mode by melting unnecessary ice forming on the edges of the freezer. The product info says that the gadget can minimize defrosting schedule from one to two times a month to four to six times a year.



It can save consumers about 30 kwh per month (1 kwh costs about P9), or P270 a month for a 6-11 cubic foot refrigerator. The product info claims that this can save up to 45 percent of the refrigerator's power consumption.
PRICE: P1,180

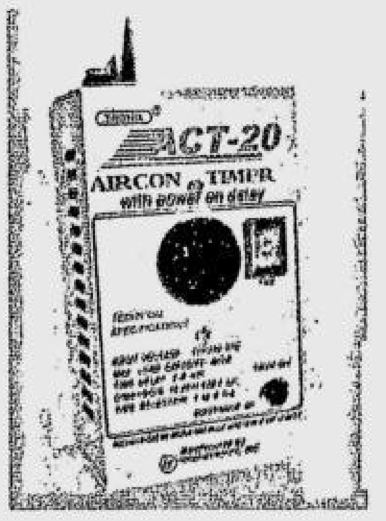


Can save 35 to 55 percent of a lamp's power consumption.
PRICE: P390 to P836

Electronic ballast

Another energy saver that Castillo devised was the electronic ballast, which he described as an improvement over the ordinary magnetic choke-type ballast.

It claims to offer longer life span for lamps and does away with the starter. It's easy to install and maintain.



Aircon timer

This protects appliances from power surge caused by brownouts. Aircon units can be switched on from one to nine hours or continuously. The gadget has a fan outlet that turns on the electric fan when the timer lapses. This device is recommended for window-type airconditioners rated at two horsepower and below.

If it shuts off at 4 a.m. instead of 6 a.m., about P30 a day or P900 a month in power bill can be saved.
PRICE: P1,090

ACT-20
AIRCON TIMER
with power on delay

Other Innovations

Photo-printing machine

The Tronix EVO3 is a digital photo-printing machine that accepts and processes digital images from cell phones and digital cameras. It comes in a fully engineered machine, with a capability of a mini lab. It is equipped with a CIS—Continuous Ink Flow System in which one doesn't need to change ink cartridges from time to time. The Tronix EVO3 is user-friendly.
PRICE:P450,000.

Queuing system

The electronic queuing system is used in banks, hospital, schools and government agencies for a more orderly line of clients.
PRICE: P10,450.

Scoreboards, digital displays

Innovatrix was the manufacturer of the scoreboards used in the 1991 Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

Standard set: P31,900
Portable scoreboard: P23,500
Basketball scoreboards (complete set): P68,650

Power-surge protector

The Power on Delay 10 protects appliances from power surges following a brownout by delaying electrical connection until power stabilizes.

Price: P385

Other products

- Radio slave trigger for outdoor photographers' flashes
- Battery pack for remote locations
- Chess-piece identification system. Automatically displays positions of pieces on a large LCD screen
- Automated night switches
- Winker or electronic flasher for Christmas lanterns

PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

INQUIRER*Mindanao*

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions
Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Nico A. Alconaba**

Sulu tribes unaware of Kiram poll bid

By Nash B. Maulana
Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

THE COUNTRY'S SOUTHERNMOST PART, THE TRADItional "dependencies" of the Sulu Sultanate may not even know that its modern-day heir, Sultan Jamalul Kiram III, is running for senator.

Residents say that although the government maintains Radyo ng Bayan relay stations in Tawi-Tawi and Sulu, most neighboring islands are domains of broader and more powerful Malaysian air waves.

People in such islands as Cagayan de Sulu, and Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi off Palawan's southern tip, listen to "Suara Malaysia" (Voice of Malaysia), an affiliate of the British Broadcasting Corp., said Datu James Hassan, a member of the Sulu sultanate's Ruma Bichara (Royal Council).

Thus, the five Sama sub-tribes of the Sulu Archipelago can hardly deliver votes even if they easily make for 30 to 40 percent in addition to the 1.1 million voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), he said. Most of them are also either unregistered voters or are more keen on Malaysian issues than home concerns like elections, much less about national politics, the Datu said. (Sulu has 209,777 registered voters and ARMM has 1.2 million voters as of April 2006, according to the Commission on Elections.)

Recall campaign jingles as funny as those of Rep. Juan Miguel Zibiri's "boom tarat-tarat" and slogans like Rep. Prospero Pichay's "Itanim sa Senado," would not be heard in far away Cagayan de Sulu, Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi, Simunul, Tawi-Tawi, and Turtle and Balut Islands where signals mix up and stronger foreign tunes prevail.

The publicists' ability to produce and run radio plugs or TV ads in Bahasa Malayo wouldn't be a guarantee that the message will reach island residents, either; they also have to consider buying air time from Malaysian radio stations, according to Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar, who speaks most of the Moro dialects and the Bahasa.

According to Hassan, no one can even be sure that residents there know that mega actress-singer Sharon Cuneta is married to Sen. Francis Pangilinan, or that Star for All Seasons Vilma Santos is married to Sen. Ralph Recto.

On the part of Sultan Jamalul Kiram III, the average Tausug, for instance, does not know how many wives the sultan lives with, or who the other children of his father by different mothers are.

Powerful sultan

But when it comes to records kept by exalted international forums, the Sulu sultan is very influential.

A 2002 UN document points to the kingdom of Sultan Jamalul Kiram III's ancestors as one being "invariably described as 'the Archipelago of Sulu and the dependencies thereof,' or the island of Sooloo with all its dependencies."

"[It] comprises all the islands which are found between the western extremity of the island of Mindanao, on one side, the continent of Borneo and the island of Paragua, on the other side," said a 60-page decision of the United Nations International Court of Justice (ICJ) on a territorial dispute between Indonesia and Malaysia over Palau Ligitan and Palau Sipadan on Dec. 17, 2002.

KIRAM

"But [again] this is not translatable to votes in [Sultan Jamalul Kiran III's] favor," commented Khalid Alimudin, a ranking member of the Moro National Liberation Front.

In that landmark decision, ICJ acknowledges the economic resource potential of a Sama sub-tribe as well as the archipelagic extent of the Sulu sultan's influence, saying the two provinces "were an integral part of the marine economy of the Bajao Laut, Sea Gypsies," which are subjects of the Sulu sultanate, according to local traditionalists.

But his great nation of old that could have otherwise delivered him millions in votes, has been torn in time by imperial treaties that ICJ justices reviewed for the Indonesia-Malaysia dispute. The Philippine government lost its first international bid for territorial claim over Sabah in sultanate dependencies' behalf.

Old territories of the sultanate's dependencies have been superseded by agreements and protocols of colonial giants—notably Britain, Germany, Spain and America—recognizing each other's imperial turfs over indigenous nations.

After Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957, Sultan Jamalul Kiram II in 1965 authorized the Philippine government through President Diosdado Macapagal to pursue legal territorial claim over Sabah which Sultan Kamalul Kiram I had leased to the British-Malay Co. in 1878.

The Philippine government attempted, but failed, to intervene in the old Sabah claim case.

The ICJ ruling, voted 14-1 by its justices, denied the Philippine Application for Intervention.

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
Is now accepting applications for
School Year 2007-2008 to its

Ph.D./M.A. ECONOMICS
Programs

The degrees provide avenues for scholarly research and extensive discussions on policy and theoretical issues. The M.A. students are given the flexibility to pursue specializations through a thesis or a non-thesis track, and on a full or part-time basis. The Ph.D. program provides students the highest standards of training in economic research.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION
Econometrics/Quantitative Methods, Environmental Economics, International Economics, Political Economy and Development, Financial Economics

APPLICATION MATERIALS CAN BE SECURED FROM:
Office of Graduate Services (telephone: 426-6001 loc. 5141)
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Classes are scheduled at weeknights (6:00-9:00pm) and Saturdays.
Teachers or academicians may apply for up to 50% tuition discount.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Economics Department email: economics@admu.edu.ph
Telephone: 426-6001 loc. 5220/22 Telefax: 426-5661

CHEST PAIN: ARE WE DOING ENOUGH?

Does your treatment have the weight of evidence?

2007 Coronary Artery Disease Review

The science of Cardiology is evolving fast and if treatment outcomes were to improve, it behooves us to apply these new emerging concepts and strategies to our clinical practice.

As part of its 32nd Anniversary jubilation, your Philippine Heart Center takes the lead in bridging the gap between this new science and our current practices. This review course aims to equip the clinician with evidence-based, best options strategies to improve survival/benefit of the Filipino coronary patient.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Over-All Chair/Course Director:
Dr. Gilbert C. Vilela

In-Charge of Program:
Dr. Myra Dolor-Torres
Dr. Kathleen Go

In-Charge of Faculty:
Dr. Liberty Yaneza
Dr. Justina Calibuso

In-Charge of Registration:
Dr. Arnel Arenas
Dr. Marife Theresa Abrena
Dr. Angelita Go

In-Charge of Publicity:
Dr. Richard Torres
Dr. Jose Beswilan

In-Charge of Awards:
Dr. Ramoncito Habaluyas
Dr. Charlie Saquian

In-Charge of Physical Preparation:
Dr. Erwin Dizon
Dr. Agapito Fortuno

Secretariat:
Teresa Quan, RMT
Grace Cuzon

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
in partnership with
therapharma
Your Cardio-metabolic Partner For Life

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
2007 COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW COURSE ON CAD
Emerging Concepts, Shifting Practices
February 23-24, 2007

DAY 1
February 23, 2007

7:00-8:00 AM	Registration	
8:00- 8:30 AM	Opening Ceremonies Cordial Greetings Introduction to the Course Opening Bell	Dr. Gilbert Vilela

SESSION I
EMERGING CONCEPTS ON TOTAL CAD BURDEN REDUCTION

8:30-9:15 AM	Molecular Basis of Atherosclerosis	Dr. Ramon Abarquez
9:20- 10:05 AM	Hypertension and CAD: New Concepts, New Goals	Dr. Romeo Divinagracia
	COFFEE BREAK	
10:20- 11:05 AM	T2 Diabetes and CAD: New Concepts, New Goals	Dr. Romeo Saavedra
11:10-12:00 PM	Lipids and CAD: New Concepts, New Goals	Dr. Rody Sy

SESSION 2
BEST PRACTICES FOR STEMI AND NSTEMI

1:00- 2:00 PM	STEMI: Applying New Evidence to Practice	Dr. Myra Dolor-Torres
2:05-2:50 PM	Fibrinolytic Therapy: A Dead End?	Dr. Aristides Panlilio
	COFFEE BREAK	
3:20-4:05 PM	PCI in STEMI: Who? When? Which?	Dr. Ramoncito Tria
4:30-5:10 PM	NSTEMI: Applying New Evidence to Practice	Dr. Ariel Miranda

DAY 2
February 24, 2007

SESSION 3
BEST PRACTICES FOR CHRONIC STABLE CAD

8:00- 9:00 AM	Chronic Stable Angina: Applying New Evidence to Practice	Dr. Cesar Recto III
9:00-10:00 AM	ASA,BB,ACEI,ARB,CCB, Statins: Which has real evidence in Improving Treatment Outcome?	Dr. Luis Go
	COFFEE BREAK	
10:20- 11:05 AM	Optimal Non-Invasive Tests for Diagnosis of CAD	Dr. Edwin Tucay
11:10-12:00 PM	Town Hall Meeting: How do you *Really* manage your chest pain patients?	Dr. Gilbert Vilela

SESSION 4
CURRENTS IN REVASCULARIZATION

1:00- 1:40 PM	Early Thrombosis in DES: Is the issue closed?	Dr. Timothy Dy
1:45- 2:45 PM	CABG vs PCI vs Maximized Medical Therapy: Which 4 which?	Dr. James Ho Khe Sui

SESSION 5
DIFFICULT SITUATION IN THE CCU

3:05-4:00 PM	Cardiogenic Shock in MI 2007: Medical Mgt, Early PCI, Surgery: Which Works?	Dr. Reynaldo Fajardo
4:05-4:55 PM	Risk Stratification and Management of Early Post-MI Ventricular Arrhythmias	Dr. Belen Carisma
5:00-5:10 PM	CLOSING REMARKS Invitations to the Next CAD Review	

For inquiries, please contact: Dr. Gilbert C. Vilela> cell: 0917-5292607
E-mail: gcv124@yahoo.com.ph
Dr. Kathleen Go> cell: 0917-5490050
E-mail: kathleenggomd@yahoo.com

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/regions

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Parents told: Keep kids from US troops

Rape, shooting cases recalled in war games

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE PARENTS OF AT LEAST two individuals, who suffered abuses in the hands of US soldiers, have called on other parents to be wary of the start here today of the Balikatan.

Maj. John Redfield, public information officer of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines (JSOTFP), said about 200 US soldiers will be participating in the Balikatan, which would also be held in other parts of Mindanao.

The mother of Subic rape victim Nicole said that parents should always make sure their children, especially girls, are safe from abuse.

"Watch your children closely," Nicole's mother urged.

Ahmadon Baharon, whose son was shot by US forces during a live fire exercise here in 2004, said parents should make sure their children do not wander near the American soldiers.

"As much as possible, keep away your relatives and children from any foreign soldier," Baharon said.

He said that his son Arsad, 25, has suffered from the shooting but received barely any help.

US forces had contended that they mistook Arsad for a cow.

But Baharon said even if that was the case, shooting other people's animals was still not fair.

He said Arsad's situation has burdened them so much but that the US forces only gave them P47,000.

Baharon said they wanted to sue but they have no money. The government would not help too, he said.

Baharon is an ambulant vendor. He became the sole family breadwinner after his wife had been terminated from her job at a local cannery.

"If something happened to (the children), you have no one to run to for help, not even our own government," Baharon said.

Baharon's 20-year-old daughter Madonna said she now hates the American soldiers.

"They might have good looks but they also have bad attitudes. Whenever I see them, my blood pressure rises," she said.

Madonna also issued an appeal to her fellow women here: "Don't be fooled by good looks."

Nicole's mother, however, said she did not hate the Americans at all just because one of them raped her daughter.

She said she even helped a US soldier when he had trouble finding a shoemaker.

Nicole's mother operates an eatery inside the military camp here.

"Juan's sin is not Pedro's fault. I am fair," she said.

The military exercise was aimed more at winning hearts and minds in Mindanao and preventing people there from sympathizing with terrorists. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

A MORO woman and her child walk past a group of US Marines unloading equipment in Jolo City upon their arrival for military exercises. The soldiers also brought road-building equipment with them.

AFP

Cops seize 43 kg of marijuana in raid

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Agents of the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Laguna police arrested a drug pusher and confiscated 43 kg of dried marijuana leaves from him during a buy-bust operation in Biñan, Laguna on Friday night.

Supt. Ricardo Villanueva, SOG-Laguna chief, identified the arrested suspect as Francisco Veduya, 31, a resident of Sona 7, Barangay Malaban, Biñan town.

Veduya belonged to a local drug syndicate and was among the most wanted drug peddlers in the province, Villanueva said.

He said an operative pretended to buy a kilogram of marijuana from the suspect at his lair in Barangay Malaban at around 8 p.m.

After the successful test buy, policemen immediately announced the operation and arrested Veduya.

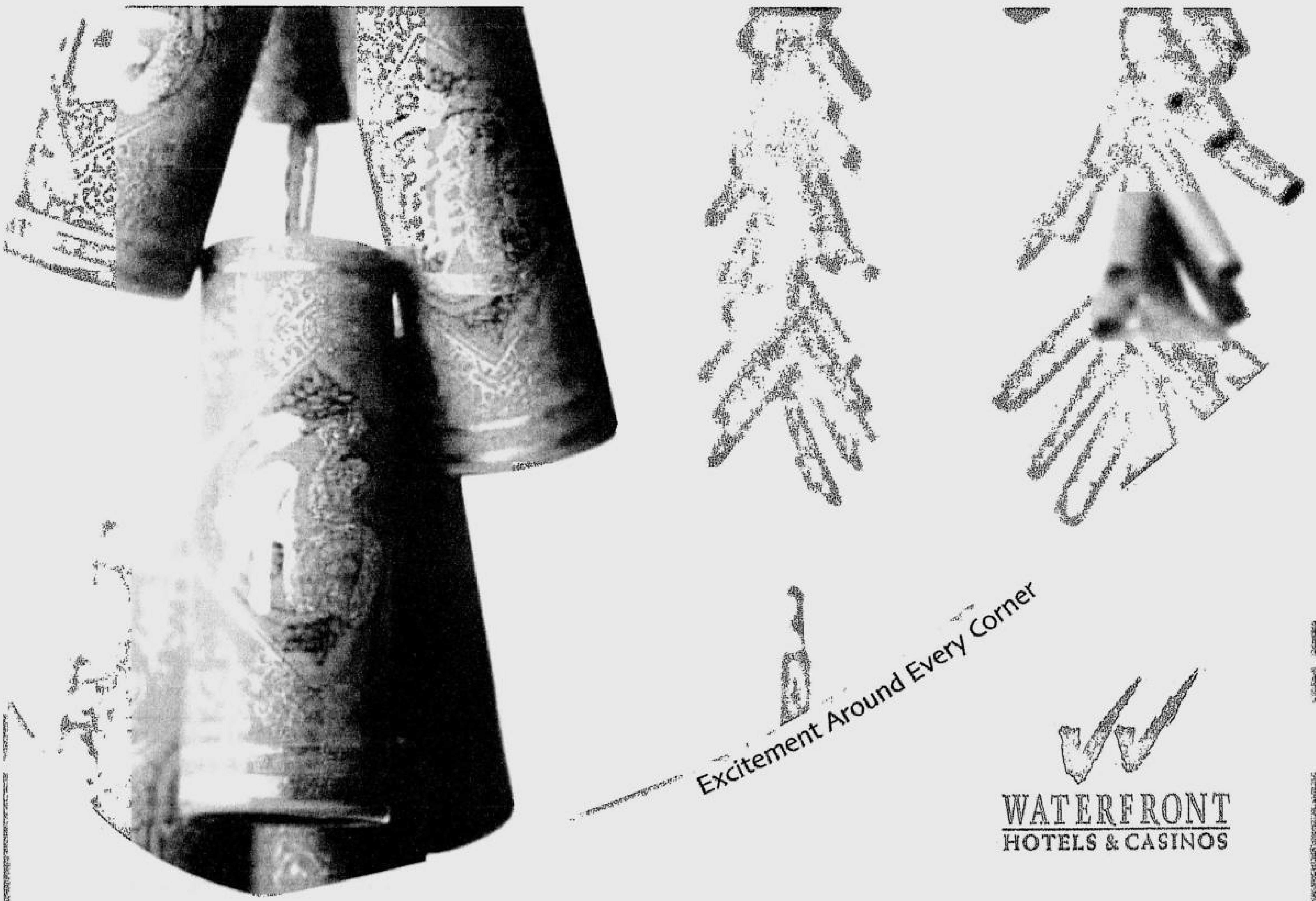
They found 43 bricks of dried marijuana leaves inside the group's hideout.

Villanueva said the confiscated items have a street value of more than P150,000.

The syndicate's alleged leader, a certain Vilmor Magundayao, was able to elude arrest after he sensed the police operation.

"He was able to run on top of the roofs of adjoining houses in the slum area," Villanueva told the INQUIRER.

He said they were now tracking down the whereabouts of Magundayao who was the primary target of the operation. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

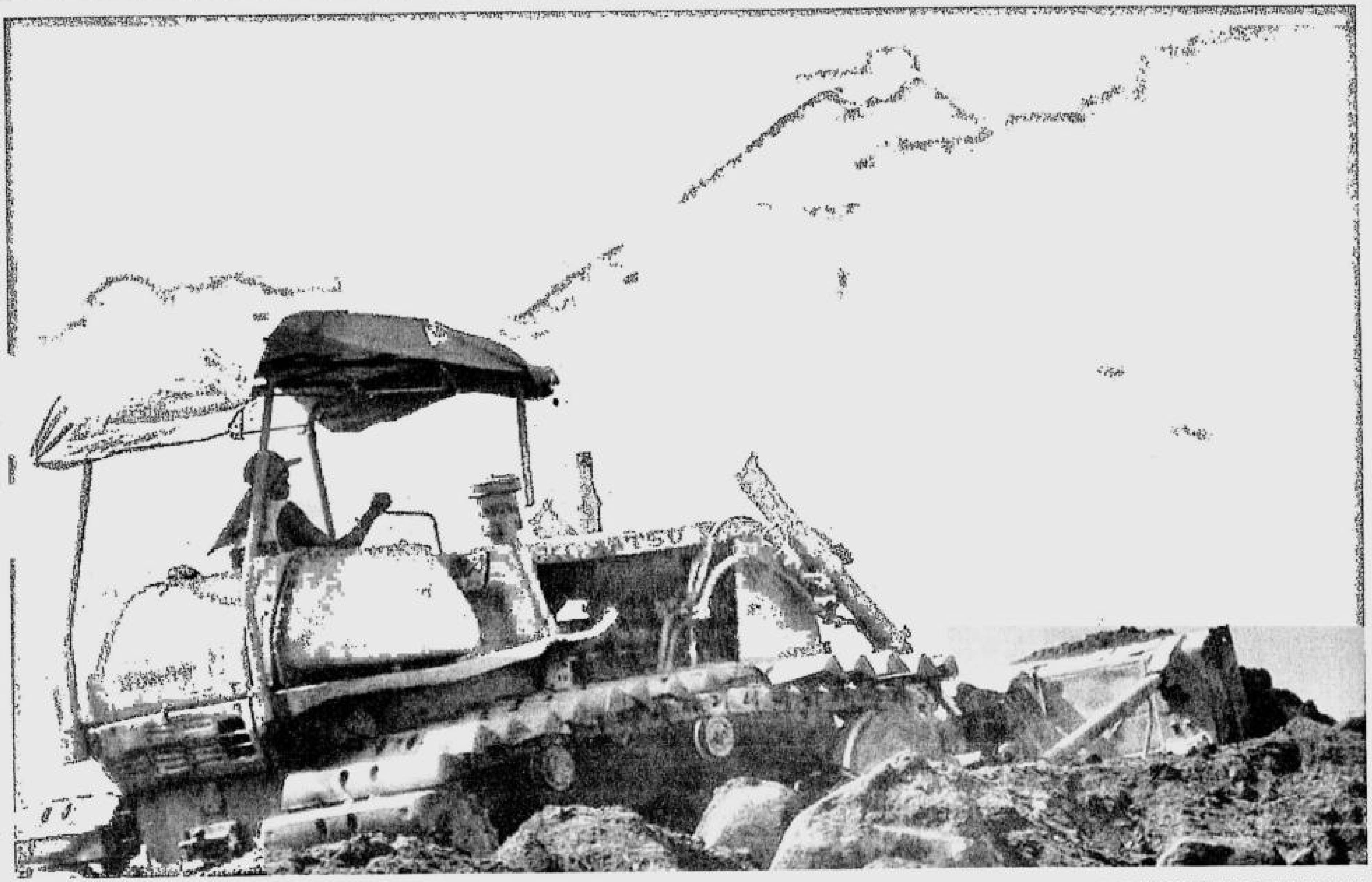


WATERFRONT HOTELS & CASINOS

Prosperity. Longevity. Good Health. Success.
Waterfront Hotels & Casinos wish the Philippines all these and more in the flourishing Year of the Fire Pig. Kung Hei Fat Choi!

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO
WATERFRONT AIRPORT HOTEL & CASINO MACTAN
WATERFRONT INSULAR HOTEL DAVAO
MANILA PAVILION

MANILA SALES AND RESERVATIONS OFFICE • 27/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, 22 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center Pasig City 1600 Philippines
Tel No. (63-2) 687-0888 Fax No. (63-2) 687-5973/74/70 www.waterfronthotels.com.ph



RECLAIMING LAND

NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

A bulldozer works its way through tons of rocks and volcanic mud that had settled in what once were roads and communities in the village of Padang, Legazpi City that was wiped off the map by mudflow and landslide from Mayon volcano. Millions of cubic meters of volcanic material that are still on the volcano's slopes remain a threat.

NIA denies diversion of funds to roads

THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION Administration denied it had diverted funds meant for irrigation facilities to farm-to-market roads that are not specified in a loan contract that made the funds available.

In a statement, the NIA said the use of funds for roads was "clearly provided for" in a memorandum of agreement among the Department of Agriculture, Department of Finance, the NIA and the Department of Budget and Management.

"The program shall involve irrigation, farm-to-market roads and other projects in support of the Department of Agriculture rice sufficiency target for next year," the statement quoted part of the memorandum as saying.

"Hence, the program is authorized and it cannot be alleged that NIA diverted funds for projects where it was not intended to be used," said the NIA statement.

It said farm-to-market roads were necessary components of the program to achieve rice self-sufficiency because the roads "assure physical link of agricultural areas with the consumption, processing and marketing centers."

The NIA said the new loan agreement only formalizes the terms of the P20-billion loan between the irrigation agency and the National Development Corp., another government-owned and -controlled corporation.

The memorandum of agreement, the NIA said, involved P1 billion in funds purely for the repair and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities, but these were not diverted.

"No amount of this loan was utilized for farm-to-market roads and other projects," said the NIA.

The NIA said local government units and the Department of Public Works and Highways were involved in the project "to tap their resources and capabilities to complement NIA's capabilities."

The NIA has submitted to the National Disaster Coordinating Council the requirements for the repair of P398 million worth of irrigation facilities that were destroyed by Supertyphoons "Milenyo" and "Reming," especially in the Bicol region.

Youths gear for nationwide class boycott

MILITANT STUDENT AND YOUTH organizations nationwide are gearing for a boycott of classes in Metro Manila and key cities across the country on Feb. 22 to protest the new round of tuition and other school fee increases.

"Tuition and other fee increases in these times of economic hardship and poverty are clearly uncalled for. These only make college education more elusive to young Filipinos," Kabataan Party-list president Raymond Palatino said in a statement.

Aside from the Kabataan Party-list, several chapters of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines and the National Union of Students of the Philippines in major private schools in Metro Manila and other cities nationwide are also set to join the protest action.

According to Palatino, his group and the NUSP—together with student representatives from De La Salle University, Araneta University, University of the East, Mapua Institute of Technology, Philippine School for Business and Arts, Lyceum of the Philippines, Centro Escolar University and University of Santo Tomas—already filed a consolidated complaint at the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) last Feb. 15 against their school administrations over violations in the guidelines for tuition and other fee increases.

He reiterated the students' call for a full refund of illegally collected tuition and other fee increases for the current school year.

"Private schools and CHEd should first settle the issues over the illegal implementation of tuition and other fee hikes this school year... before approving proposals for another round of school fee increases," Palatino said.

He said the school year was about to end but private schools which increased tuition and other fees have not yet started giving refund to the students.

"If these school administrators will get away with the illegal tuition hikes they implemented this school year, it's likely that they will implement even bigger increases for the upcoming semester without student consultation," he warned.

"While CHEd issued an en banc resolution last May, it only stipulated a refund for tuition hikes which exceeded the inflation rate," Palatino added.

He argued that tuition and other fee increases imposed this school year are illegal since a CHEd memorandum, which became the basis for these increases, violated Republic Act No. 6728, Section 10, which provides that any proposal for school fee increase should undergo student consultation.

In the same statement, NUSP secretary general Alvin Peters and CEGP president Jose Cosido called on CHEd and lawmakers to investigate dubious fees which are being collected by various private schools in the country.

"These fees are not only superfluous, these are downright ridiculous. Private schools are imposing exorbitant fees to jack up their profits," Peters said.

As an example, he said the Philippine Maritime Institute is charging its students with a safety on land and seas fee that is worth P5,000 to P6,000 while UE in Manila is charging cultural fee that is worth P162 and Internet fee of P976.

"The Asian School of Arts and Sciences is collecting P250 for athletic fee even if the school doesn't have a varsity team," Peters revealed.

The group claimed that more dubious fees are being charged by private schools like energy fee, development fee, accreditation fee, centennial fee or foundation fee and aircondition fee. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Cordillerans warned betel nut chewing can cause cancer

BAGUIO CITY—BETEL NUT chewing, a practice in several tribes in the Cordillera, can cause oral cancer, dentists here said.

IFUGAO elders with red, instead of shiny white, teeth is a common sight in Ifugao and various parts of the Cordillera. Betel nut juice accounts for the condition.

EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Dr. Jenee Bautista, president of the Philippine Dental Association chapter here, said the number of cases of oral cancer due to betel nut chewing is rising in the Philippines.

Chewing betel nut mixed with lime (locally called momma), has been a practice among Cordillera tribes because they believed it could strengthen their teeth and promote oral hygiene.

Bautista said countries such as China and India, where betel nut chewing is also practiced, have also recorded cases of oral cancer.

Although many Cordillerans have good sets of teeth, cases of oral cancer have been recorded here because of the age-old practice of momma chewing.

"We have the highest rate of oral cancer in the country, and we are followed by Mindanao where betel nut chewing is also practiced," she told reporters here on Wednesday.

Bautista said while lime does not seem to have any adverse side effects, betel nut itself is carcinogenic. Betel nut, she said, is harmful to the mouth, gums, throat and teeth.

She said smoking, while not the main cause of oral cancer, could increase the risk of developing oral cancer.

"People who chew betel nut say the redder their spit, the better it is [for their teeth]. But [betel nut] is carcinogenic and it does not make the teeth stronger," she said.

Bautista also cited a World Health Organization study showing the Philippines has the worst oral health status in the world.

"Filipinos do not practice proper oral hygiene. A lot of people here also have gum problems," she said.

Poor dental hygiene in the country, she said, has led to a high incidence of decayed, missing or filled teeth (DMFT) among schoolchildren between 6 and 12 years old.

"Ninety-eight percent of children from six to 12 years have DMFT. At age six, children already have permanent teeth," Bautista said.

"[The WHO report] only says that Filipinos do not take care of their teeth well. That is why we are having this massive campaign [on oral hygiene] and it should start with [children]. They should start taking care of their teeth with good brushing techniques and using the proper toothpaste," Bautista said.

Jason Domling, 25, has always believed that chewing betel nut can make the teeth stronger and cleaner.

Called "momma man" by his friends, Domling, a native of Sagada, Mt. Province, said he started chewing momma when he was 15 years old. *Desiree Caluza, with a report from Donna Demetillo, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

ASHES TO ASHES

JUNJIE MENDOZA/CDN

Firemen watch a fire that ate up a lodging house on Colon Street in Cebu City die. Sprays of water from some of the firemen's hoses created a prism of different colors as the fire was put out.

Fire stations listed as fire hazards

DAVAO CITY—The list of establishments, government offices and buildings that are considered fire hazards in this city includes what was not expected to be there—the city's fire stations.

"We found out that most of these buildings (in the city), including some of our fire stations, are fire hazards," Supt. Wilberto Rico Neil Kwan Tiu, city fire chief, said.

Kwan Tiu said some of the city fire department's fire stations were "no different from some government offices, which are already dilapidated."

Dilapidated buildings should be repaired or demolished under the country's Fire Code because these are considered very vulnerable to fire.

He said the city fire department has already recommended some measures to address the problem but found it difficult to convince the government offices that were supposed to act on these concerns.

"There seems to be a problem regarding the compliance of government offices," Kwan Tiu said.

Kwan Tiu said as far as his office is concerned, he already recommended the repair of the fire department's dilapidated fire stations but nothing happened so far.

He said the failure to repair the dilapidated buildings could be due to lack of funds.

"We know that the government doesn't have much fund for the renovation of its offices," Kwan Tiu said.

As this developed, Kwan Tiu said the city fire department have intensified a campaign of awareness by educating people in areas where fires are likely to occur.

He said these areas included slum communities.

"Fire happens mostly in squatters' areas compared to high-end subdivisions because people in the slum areas are into illegal tapping and connections (of power supply)," Kwan Tiu said.

He said most people in slum areas also do not have the concept of safety.

"They don't even know that the light's fuse is essential in preventing fire and so it is highly not advisable to alter it," he said.

Based on fire department data, Kwan Tiu said, the top reason for fires is human fault and negligence.

In 2005, at least 174 fires happened in the city. The number dropped in 2006 with only 135 fires. For the first two months of this year, there were already about 27 fires that occurred in the city, damaging about P5 million worth of pieces of property. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*

Baguio seeing invasion of Korean evangelists

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—NOT ONLY KOREAN tourists are arriving in droves in this summer capital. There has also been an influx of Korean missionaries.

Baguio's Christian churches have been observing how these missionaries use attention-grabbing strategies as they go around town to attract the faithful to their preaching.

At night, a Korean man walks around downtown Baguio serenading bystanders with a trumpet before he breaks out into a spiel about clean Christian living in broken Ilocano.

He then hands out glossy wallet-sized cards bearing the images of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary as soon as he finishes preaching.

Another group of young Koreans on Sunday staged a taekwondo exhibition highlighted by a reenactment of the Crucifixion, an event which drew a huge curious crowd.

Baguio preachers find the Koreans' activities both refreshing and disturbing.

Lawyer Alex Bangsoy, a Christian evangelist, said "every one who preaches the Gospel is very welcome."

He said local pastors do not mind the gimmicks, which are time-tested tools of evangelists to spread God's message.

But Bangsoy cautioned the Korean missionaries about preaching in a city already saturated with churches of various denominations.

"In my circle, these [foreign evangelists] are a serious concern … *Ang pagdami nila mabilis. Hindi na ma-proseso* (Their growth in numbers is swift. We can hardly process their messages anymore)," he said.

He said the groups' preaching activities had also raised suspicion.

Immigration and revenue officials are monitoring some language schools here because of reports that these are actually owned by Korean missionaries but run by Filipino dummies.

Bangsoy said some revenue officials suspect that some foreigners have been using their churches to get tax benefits for their business enterprises.

But some Korean businessmen here said they had no ties to these preachers.

Most Korean missionaries do not interact with local churches because of the language barrier.

Most Koreans living in Baguio also keep to themselves, tourism officials said.

Like the average Korean visitors here, who stay only for three to four months to learn English, many Korean missionaries also preach and recruit church members for a short duration before leaving for new areas.

UNORTHODOX CALL. An unidentified Korean evangelist uses a trumpet to sound the call to his preaching on Session Road in Baguio City. ELMER KRISTIAN DAUIGOY/ INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Dropping of raps vs publisher urged

A PRESS FREEDOM WATCHDOG YESTERday called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to drop sedition charges against a newspaper publisher and two columnists who have been critical of her government.

Niñez Cacho-Olivares, publisher and editor in chief of The Daily Tribune, and columnists Herman Tiu Laurel and Ike Seneres were charged Wednesday with writing articles and editorials purportedly aimed at inciting dissent.

The three have vowed to fight the charges which they said went against the guarantee of freedom of speech in a country that is one of Asia's most free-wheeling democracies.

"Resorting to sedition charges against journalists critical of the government smacks of overreaction and outright intimidation," Joel Simon, executive director of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), said in a statement.

"The Arroyo government should drop these charges immediately," he said.

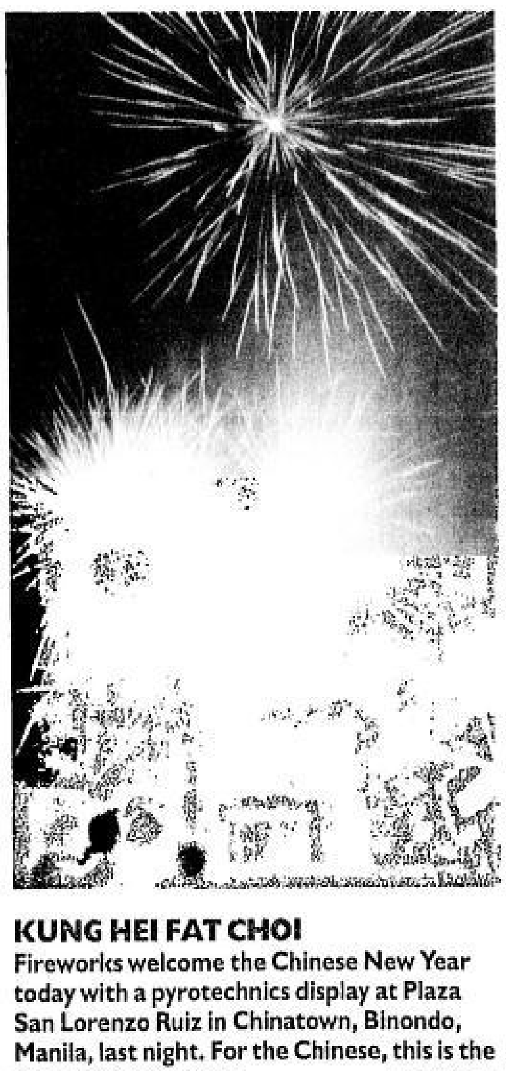
Police last year raided the offices of the Tribune after Arroyo invoked emergency powers to quell a coup allegedly hatched by political figures close to the paper, disgruntled military officers and leftist insurgents.

Up to 28 officers, including two generals and several highly decorated colonels, are now being tried in a military court, while 16 civilians, including six leftist politicians, were arrested but later freed.

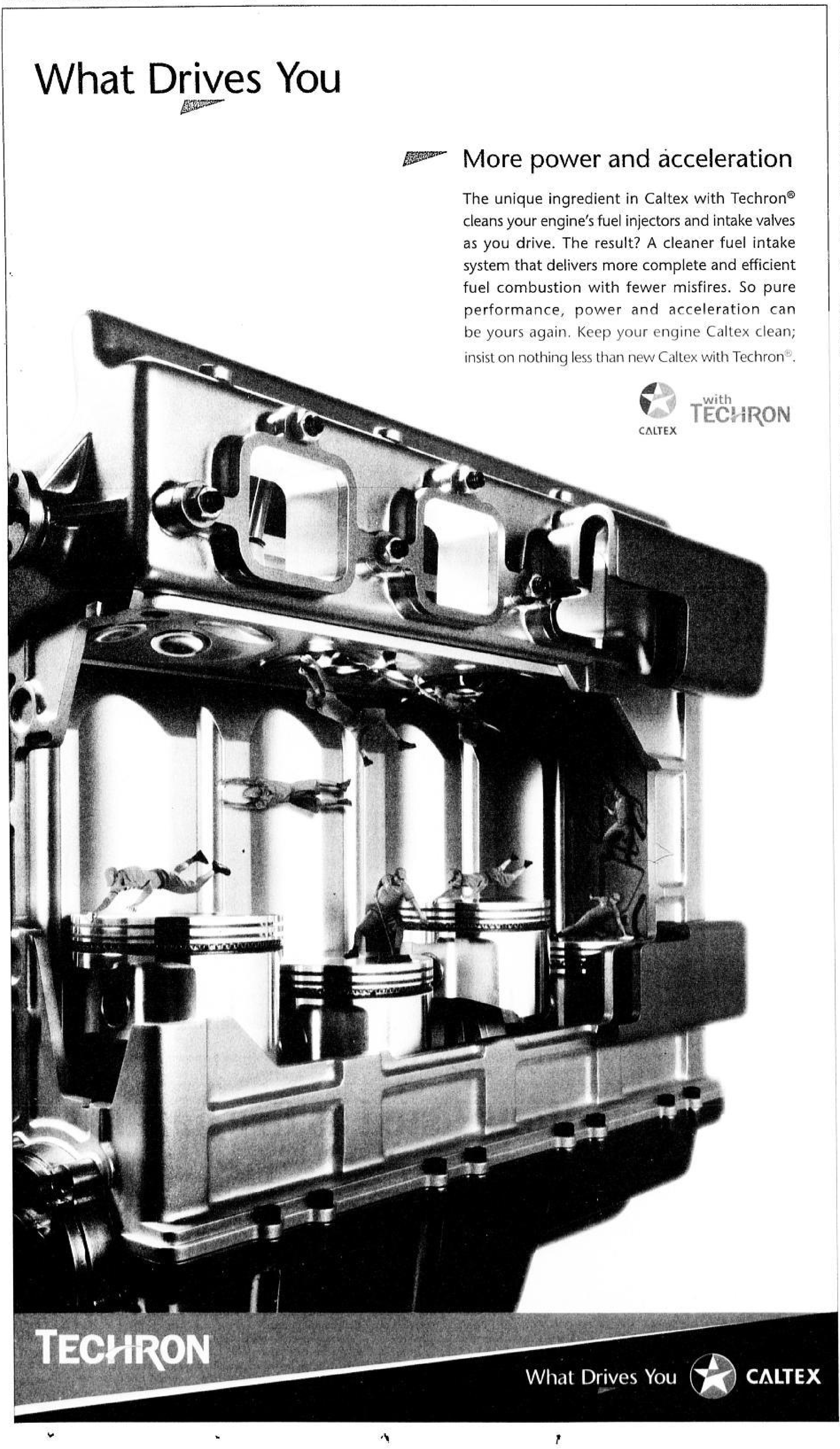
CPJ noted that the raid on the Tribune offices was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in May of last year.

Senior state prosecutor Phillip Kimpo, in announcing the charges on Wednesday, said there was "probable cause" that the three had incited to sedition, which is a criminal offense in the Philippines.

He said the articles "reveal some grossly or obscenely abusive libels against the government and its officials." Kimpo cited an article written by Olivares on Dec. 11, 2005, in which she stated that the "military willfully engages in illegal activities and follows illegal orders from the Commander-in-Chief." *AFP*



KUNG HEI FAT CHOI
Fireworks welcome the Chinese New Year today with a pyrotechnics display at Plaza San Lorenzo Ruiz in Chinatown, Binondo, Manila, last night. For the Chinese, this is the Year of the Fire Boar. RODEL ROTON



What Drives You

More power and acceleration

The unique ingredient in Caltex with Techron® cleans your engine's fuel injectors and intake valves as you drive. The result? A cleaner fuel intake system that delivers more complete and efficient fuel combustion with fewer misfires. So pure performance, power and acceleration can be yours again. Keep your engine Caltex clean; insist on nothing less than new Caltex with Techron®.

CALTEX with TECHRON

TECHRON

What Drives You CALTEX

Aplus METRO
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

This easy rider is a top cop

By Candy Palenzuela-Dalizon
Contributor

AS SHOWN IN WESTERNS, THE sheriff rides around his town, keeping its streets safe from the bad guys.

But while the heroes of these movies rode a horse, this modern-day lawman goes around on a big bike, a R1200 BMW motorcycle.

Director General Oscar C. Calderon, chief of the Philippine National Police, likes to patrol the streets on not-so-busy days to see the situation in the metropolis firsthand.

"I developed my love for big bikes when I was head of the Davao City Metrodiscom (Metropolitan District Command) in 1993. In those days, I would join Mayor (Rodrigo) Duterte's bike patrols in Davao," he told the INQUIRER.

Riding a motorcycle, however, is not all work for the 55-year-old Calderon. It is also a mode of relaxation for him.

Relieving stress

"I love it because it is one of the ways through which I can unwind and relieve the pressure and stress that come with my work," he said.

After Duterte's On Any Sunday Riders' Club, Calderon, a member of Class 1973 of the Philippine Military Academy, joined the Laguna Riders' Club when he became the provincial police chief in 1997.

In 2006, as the PNP's second top official (deputy chief for administration), Calderon became a certified "Rider" of the PNP Traffic Management Group after completing a rigorous 45-day motorcycle training organized by TMG director Chief Supt. Errol T. Pan.

Being a "Rider" means membership in an elite police group. Riders protect the President and visiting heads of state and foreign dignitaries.

"I see to it that I drive my bike if I have the time for it. That way, I can unwind, reduce stress and also see for myself what's happening in the streets and in different police precincts," Calderon told the INQUIRER one lazy Tuesday afternoon as he prepared to leave the PNP headquarters at Camp Crame with his motorcycle patrol team.

His passion for big bikes led him to give motorcycle cops, particularly those in Metro Manila, a bigger role in the fight against criminality.

Calderon and National Capital Region Police Office chief, Deputy Director General Reynaldo P. Varilla, were behind the formation of Task Group Motorized Anti-Street Crime Operatives (Masco), whose motorcycle-riding members patrol the streets of the metropolis every day.

Innovative way

Calderon said the innovation was aimed at addressing the growing sophistication of

THIS EASY/ A19

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
ROMY HOMILLADA

PNP CHIEF Oscar Calderon: Keeping Metro Manila's streets safe.

SMART Buddy
Ang Saya!
Ang saya ng barkadahan sa SMART Buddy kasi mas abot kaya!
SMART Buddy Ang Saya!
SMART SIM 3
DAHIL SMART TAYO

SMART Buddy BARKADA PACK
P150! For 3 SMART Buddy SIMs!
For as low as P50 per SIM, kuha mo na ang lahat ng saya ng SMART Buddy!
Or get the powerful SMART Buddy SIM na dating P100–for only P65!
Kaya saan ka pa kukuha ng super affordable na pang-connect–SMART Buddy!
Promo runs until March 31, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0339 Series of 2007

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

SUPERMOM OF TEXAS

Her 9 children, all college grads, are her trophies

ANITA Ongcuangco-Reyes (foreground) with three sons, a daughter-in-law, and a grandchild at the sala of their Arlington home in Texas.

By Floriño A. Francisco
Contributor

DISENCHANTED AND DRIVEN TO DESPAIR over years of the oppressive Marcos regime, Eduardo and Anita Ongcuangco Reyes packed up with their children, all nine of them, eight sons and a daughter, and made the big move to America sometime in 1979.

They already had a comfortable life in Moonwalk Village in Parañaque running an aluminum and glass business, but it dawned upon them one day that there was no bright future for their children if they stayed in the country.

As Anita, now a widow, says, "We left our house, our business, everything. It was a hard decision to make but we were determined that we're not going back."

It didn't take long before they realized that the move would be quite hard on them. Anita's first job in a fast-food outlet paid only $2.85 per hour while Eduardo was hired by a paint company in San Jose, California.

Determined to stay in their new home country, the couple, early on instilled a sense of discipline in their children. This helped greatly as the older children worked part-time as they pursued their schooling.

Shortly thereafter, Anita found an assembler's job. But with nine children to feed and care for, life still wasn't that much easier. Despite their meager income, Anita and Eduardo both felt that they did the right thing. For one, they could still afford to buy the basic things and all the children were in school except for the twins, Kurt and Tom, who were barely 2 years old at that time.

Love at first sight

In the next five years, they virtually eked out a living. Anita scrimped on most everything at home. Everybody had to work and, luckily for them, there were plenty of places then where the older children could work in California.

Sometime in 1984, Anita visited a friend in Arlington, Texas, and fell in love with the place "at first sight." She recalled that everywhere she went, men would tip their hats off to her and kids would say, "Ma'am" and she thought her kids would do better there. She also kept noticing how friendly the Texans were. She was so smitten with Arlington that she convinced her husband to move and settle down there.

ANITA O. Reyes with her children after the graduation of her twin sons Kurt and Tom from the US Military Academy at West Point in 2002. From left, Artie, Sandy, Kurt, Carina, Anita, Tom, Emmanuel, Ron and Paul. Not in the photo is Jonathan.

Once in Arlington, Anita first worked at Frito-Lay Co. but had to change jobs several times over the next few years in search for better-paying jobs. She was, however, laid off from work in 1988. Instead of losing hope, she frenetically went through the classified ads and it was then that she realized there were a lot of job openings only for nurses.

Back to nursing

After giving it some thought, she told her husband that she was going back to nursing school. She was, after all, a top nursing student at the UP-PGH nursing school when she married Eduardo at 18.

She promised her husband that she would only need money for one semester. After that, she assured him that she could get scholarships. And so at 46, she returned to nursing school .

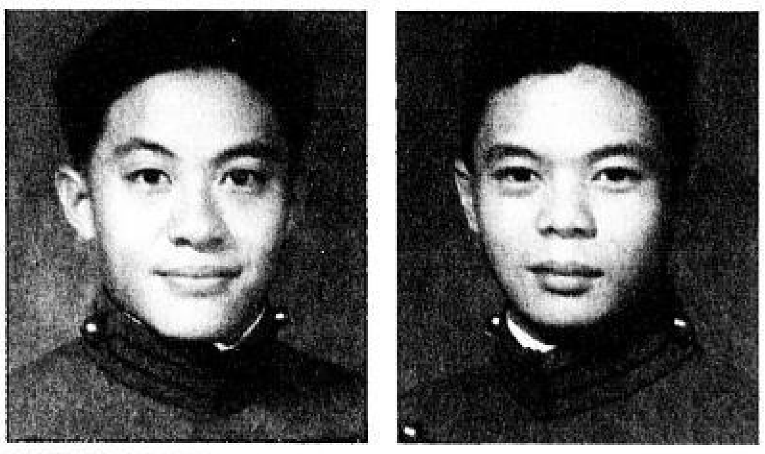
Anita did get grants while in the university, among them, the March of Dimes scholarship and the Virginia Thurman nursing grant. She also worked part-time in an airline company. It was not unusual then for her to come home from work at two in the morning.

Loneliest spring

In April, 1991, five weeks from graduation, tragedy struck! Her husband suddenly died of a heart attack.

It was the loneliest spring of her life. Devastated, she found it so hard to lose the very person she could rely on in raising her children. But the fighter that she was, she made a firm resolve to move on, facing the challenges of single parenthood, no matter what. Recalls Anita, "I really didn't know how I survived. I had to take the finals and had to write three papers and a month later, had to take the state boards. I just prayed, really prayed, and He did what was best for us!"

Anita was no stranger to life's adversities. When she was five, her father was mercilessly killed by Huk elements in their native town of Aliaga, Nueva Ecija. Her mother, a Chinese, found it difficult to raise her and six other siblings. Anita was taken in by her aunt, Rosalina Jimenez, who saw her through grade school and high school in Cabanatuan. An exceptional student, she graduated class valedictorian in both. However, in her sophomore year at UP-PGH nursing school where she was a scholar, she eloped and married Eduardo Reyes. When the kids came one after another, she had to drop out of college.



MOTHER'S TWIN PRIDE. West Point graduates Kurt (left) just back from the Iraq war; Tom is with the US Medical Corps.

Amazing records

Luckily for Anita, she passed the US state board for nursing on her first try in 1991. She began to work full-time as a nurse but still had to take part-time jobs to help support the five kids still living with her then.

She firmly believed that the best treasure she could bequeath to her children was a good and solid education. For sure, she found it quite difficult to be both father and mother to her children. But she was prepared to sacrifice everything for their sakes.

Americans were impressed with her amazing track record—nine children all college graduates! Says her former professor, Wendy Barr: "Anita is an absolutely marvelous person. She carried on and kept going after her husband died. She did a great job."

Anita does not take sole credit for the success of her children. She humbly acknowledged that almost all of them supported themselves in college through scholarships and part-time jobs. It was, of course, through her guidance and encouragement that they all excelled in their respective endeavors. And she was their one great inspiration.

Her eldest son Sandy, 43, is a registered operating room nurse in a medical center in Tucson, Arizona. Ronald, 42, is a business major who now works in Qatar in network support. Jonathan, 41, is a business graduate now working as a financial adviser for Bank of America in Houston, Texas. Another son, Emmanuel, 40, has a college degree in advertising and is now on the staff of DHL in Mesa, Arizona.

Twins are West Point grads

Her only daughter, Carina, 38, is a psychologist now serving as manager of Cisco Systems in Richardson, Texas. Artie, 36, a registered oncology nurse, works at an outpatient chemotherapy center in Dallas, Texas, while Paul, 34, is a pediatrician, now in active private practice in McKinney, Texas.

Her twins, Kurt and Tom, brought great honor to the family when they were both admitted to the US Military Academy at West Point in 1998. The two were among the very few twins ever to have been admitted in West Point history.

After their graduation in 2002, Tom went on to Fort Knox for armor training. Just back from the Iraq frontlines, he's now an officer in the US Army based at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington.

Kurt, on the other hand, joined the Medical Corps in San Antonio, Texas, for a while and later enrolled in medical school. He is due to graduate this year and is looking forward to becoming a full-fledged captain in the US Medical Corps.

Retiring in November

Hale and hearty at 64, Anita still works as senior surveyor of the Texas state department of health. Her work brings her to different places in Texas.

She considers her nine children her prized trophies. For indeed, very few mothers can match her achievement. She regrets that her beloved husband did not get to see the fulfillment of their lifelong dreams.

Anita looks forward to retiring in November. Her fond desire now is to serve a full-time mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints to which the family converted even before they migrated to America. Deeply religious, she believes that her steadfast faith in God saw her through the darkest nights in her life.

Says one of her sons: "She's the epitome of selfless service—she would do anything for her kids. She's a mother like no other!" Quite a fitting tribute to an extraordinary mother.

Doc left bride to make it in Saudi, now tills 69 has of sugar, rice fields

By Karlo Jose R. Pineda
Contributor

A DOCTOR BY PROFESSION AND a rancher by passion. This, perhaps, could best describe the man who Dr. Eugenio Dayag is today.

From the setting of prescribing medicine to ailing townsfolk, Dayag, who is known to be a big-hearted city doctor in Cagayan Valley, has progressed to an entrepreneur whose life can be told with cows and bulls. He now owns a pasture area in Cagayan with about 360-370 heads of in-ranch cattle, manned by 102 workers. The income generated from the ranch makes life a healthy one for him and his family.

Dayag's success story began in 1978. Barely four months married, Dayag left his wife, Didi, to pursue a career in Saudi Arabia as a medical officer in a stevedoring company. While pressured with weighing the importance of a new life and the cost of living, the couple never pictured that the decision to be apart in exchange for a two-year contract with a salary of $1,500 per month would lead to what the family now enjoys.

Saving grace

"Anybody in my position that time could have changed his mind," he said. Imagine leaving a fresh marriage for the rigidity of working oceans away from your wife; fears abound much like the uncertainties.

The company Dayag worked for was a Filipino company. His living quarters were at the ship itself, away from the comforts and bosom of his bride.

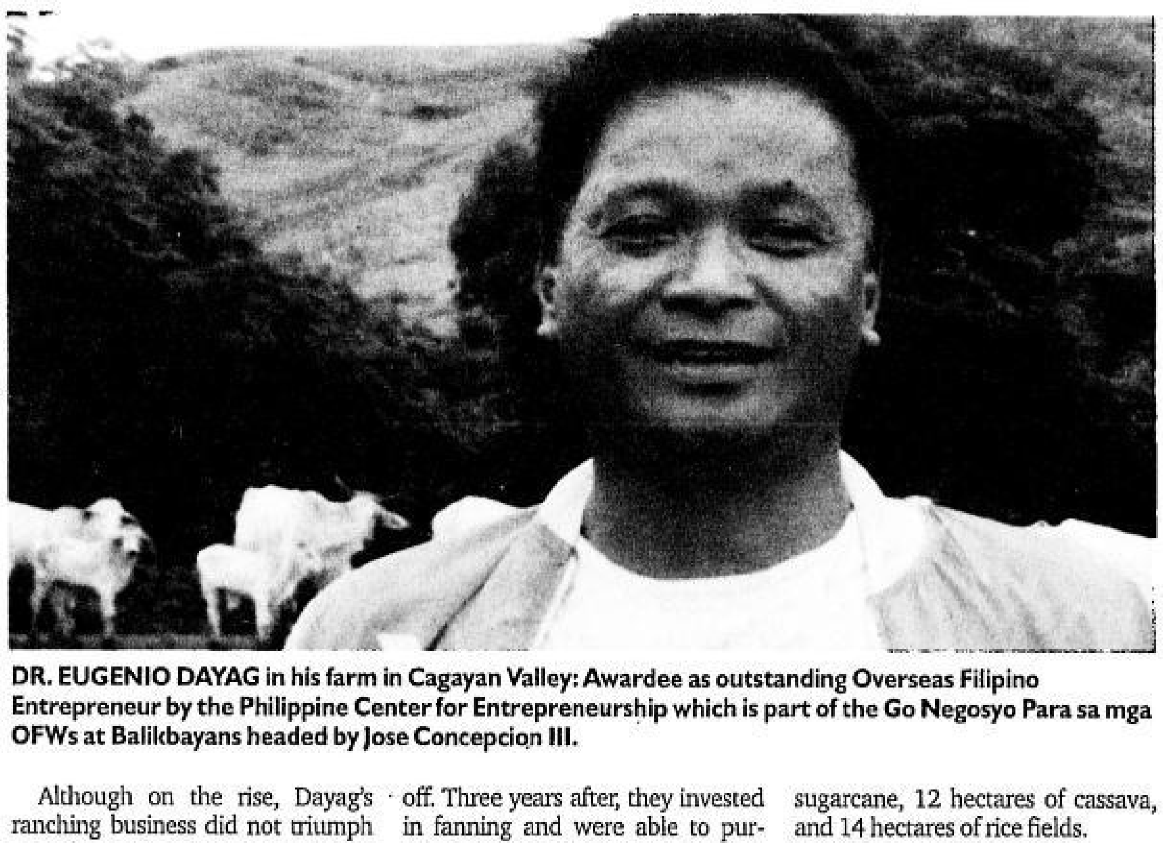
Despite the setback of homesickness, Dayag held on to one saving grace: the privilege of escorting patients repatriated to the Philippines as he was their physician. This gave him the chance to be with his loved ones even if only for a few days.

"Living a life far from my family and wife was really tough," Dayag recalled. "You see, you can't expect a pillow to hug you at night, and this made me treasure the moments of short-lived reunions."

After two years, he decided to go home for good. By that time he already had savings to push through with livelihood plans playing in his mind.

Bovine business

Dayag went to the Department of Natural Resources and applied for a pasture area. The area he acquired, which would soon be the grazing field of his voluminous herd, starting with 11 cows and a bull, was located in Sitio Caradian, Liwan Sur, Enrile, Cagayan. It was not long before he made his share of land realize its fertility.



DR. EUGENIO DAYAG in his farm in Cagayan Valley: Awardee as outstanding Overseas Filipino Entrepreneur by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship which is part of the Go Negosyo Para sa mga OFWs at Balikbayans headed by Jose Concepcion III.

Although on the rise, Dayag's ranching business did not triumph over the economic crisis hitting the country at that time. Because of this came another twist in the Dayag family setup. In 1986, his wife opted for an overseas work at the Al-Jahrah Hospital in Kuwait as a nurse, leaving their 5-year-old son under his care.

Fortunately, it did not take forever before his wife's hard work paid off. Three years after, they invested in fanning and were able to purchase eight hectares of rice land, courtesy of his wife's gleanings. Dayag, a trained seed grower, began producing certified seeds to sell to other farmers.

With the farm getting upgrades with the acquisition of tractors and irrigation, Dayag risked to venture in sugarcane and cassava production. He is now tilling 43 hectares of sugarcane, 12 hectares of cassava, and 14 hectares of rice fields.

Go Negosyo awardee

For that, Dayag was awarded outstanding Overseas Filipino Entrepreneur by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, an award given by PCE as part of the Go Negosyo Para sa mga OFWs at Balikbayans.

The Go Negosyo Para sa mga OFWs at Balikbayans is part of the continuing Go Negosyo campaign. Spearheaded by industrialist Joey Concepcion, it aims to develop entrepreneurship in the country. It also aims to complement the happiness of OFWs reunited with their families by exposing them to business opportunities.

"To be acknowledged as one of the top OFW entrepreneurs is really uplifting," Dayag said. "More than recognizing my outputs, the award gives much rejuvenation for the sacrifices I pulled off from the uncertainty of chances."

He added: "I share the award with my family, especially my wife who made extra efforts for us to make both ends meet."

A man of health

At present, Dayag is working as the city health officer of Tuguegarao City. His wife, who has plans of teaching, is back for further studies.

As the city health officer, Dayag attends to a lot of activities, like co-chairing the City Aids Council. Just recently, Tuguegarao City won the National Honor Award for Nutrition. Undeniably, he's a distinguished part of the award.

"Yes, the less fortunate benefit from the harvest of our farm lots," he said. "But I don't want to stop there. Furthering service is a drive which fuels my ventures now, and what best way to serve but by being the big hearted city doctor that many know."

This easy rider is a top cop

From page A17

criminals in the country. Motorcycle-riding policemen were dispatched to crime-prone areas in the metropolis beginning November to conduct visibility patrols and neutralize criminals.

"The presence of bike-riding policemen is a key factor in preventing crimes in the metropolis and other parts of the country. I believe that the presence alone of motorcycle cops on the streets could stop a would-be criminal," he told the INQUIRER.

Fewer street crimes

According to Calderon, the importance of Task Group Masco was proven during the holiday season. "Since its inception, it was observed that street crimes in the metropolis have declined significantly by denying criminals an opportunity to carry out their plans. This is part of my commitment to work aggressively against street crimes," he said.

He said having motorcycle-riding policemen in the PNP's increased visibility program also showed the police's "sincere commitment to rid our streets of crimes, particularly during the Christmas season and other long holidays when crimes are largely expected to increase in major thoroughfares and points of convergence."

Quicker response time

Policemen on motorcycles were able to respond more quickly to reports of crime, especially incidents that take place in narrow alleys and passageways common in Metro Manila's heavily-populated barangays, he added.

WHENEVER he has time, Calderon goes on bike patrol and makes unannounced visits to different police stations in the metropolis.

ROMY HOMILLADA

"With this innovation, police can now 'surf' through Manila traffic in pursuit of criminals riding on scooters, big bikes and other motor vehicles in the shortest time," Calderon said. In addition, motorcycles consumed less gas and were cheaper to maintain compared to patrol cars, he pointed out.

More than 400 members of Task Group Masco are now involved in regular police patrols in the metropolis. "Our motorcycle-riding cops are well-trained and adequately equipped to pursue street criminals victimizing innocent civilians on the streets, malls, markets, churches, schools and other public places," he said.

Each team is composed of two motorcycles with two policemen riding in tandem. District Masco teams are deployed to support police stations in areas where there is a high incidence of street crimes. Motorcycle-riding intelligence operatives also serve as back-up to each Masco team.

Police visibility

"Through this program, we aim to achieve a bigger capability in patrolling our streets and providing police visibility in major crime-prone areas across the country, most particularly here in Metro Manila," Calderon said.

He added that the program would soon be adopted by the 16 other police regional offices all over the country in support of the national police's overall anticriminality thrust.

"This program actually showcases the PNP's best riders who will battle street criminals and provide regular police visibility patrol in many areas around the metropolis," he said.

"Let this serve as a strong warning that your police is determined to pursue its campaign against crime … down to the farthest barangays and in every street corner to ensure the safety and security of our communities," Calderon stressed.

California city mayor robbed in beauty salon

By Tina G. Santos

THE VISITING MAYOR OF A CITY in California will probably never forget her trip to the Philippines after she lost nearly P450,000 in cash and valuables to thieves inside a beauty salon Friday afternoon.

Davis City Mayor Ruth Uy Asmundson was inside the salon at the Harrison Plaza mall in Malate, Manila at around 4:30 p.m. Friday when the incident occurred.

Missing wallet

Police said Asmundson was about to pay her bill when she discovered that her wallet was missing.

The wallet was inside her bag which she had placed beside her while she was being attended to by a beautician.

Asmundson said she lost $9,000 in cash, her California driver's license, a credit card and checks, among other valuables.

Police suspect that the 62-year-old widow was probably victimized by the notorious Salisi Gang.

Distraction

The gang's members usually scout for victims in public places. They wait until their victim's attention is distracted and then make off with their valuables.

Asmundson, who was staying at a nearby hotel, was in town to attend an affair at Adamson University, according to case investigator SP04 Patrick de Leon of the Manila Police District's Malate station.

The California mayor reported the incident to the university's security guards. The guards later informed the police about the theft.

Police said they are still trying to establish the identity of the suspect who could have posed as a customer of the beauty salon.

SMART Buddy
Ang Saya!
LETO ST
Mas makulay, mas masaya!
NOKIA
SMART
DAHIL SMART TAYO

Get the most affordable SMART Buddy Nokia colored cellphone!

SMART Buddy Nokia 1600
only ₱2,990!

Features:
Colored Screen • MP3-grade and Polyphonic Ringtones • Talking Alarm Clock
Grab A Nokia handset from any SMART Wireless Center nationwide and enjoy:
• Original battery and accessories • 15 day replacement warranty • 12 month service warranty

Kaya saan ka pa kundi with SMART Buddy–para mas makulay at mas masaya!

US House assails Bush's troop buildup in Iraq

WASHINGTON—A RESOLUTION rebuking President George W. Bush over his new strategy in Iraq moves to the US Senate Saturday (Sunday in Manila), one day after it passed the House in a rare wartime blow to the US commander-in-chief.

Opposition Democrats controlling the Senate decided to hold a rare Saturday session to renew their bid in the upper chamber to reject Bush's decision to deploy 21,500 additional US troops to Iraq.

But the non-binding measure faces an uphill battle in the Senate, where Democrats hold a razor-thin 51-49 majority that proved a weakness last week when they failed to gather the 60 votes needed to break a filibuster to move a similar measure to the floor for debate.

Republicans loyal to President Bush have warned they would try again to block debate on the resolution.

"Senators will have another opportunity to express their view on the war in Iraq," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

"Americans deserve to know whether their senator stands with the president and his plan to deepen our military commitment in Iraq, or with the overwhelming majority of Americans who oppose this escalation," he said.

"Let us be clear: Anyone voting 'no' tomorrow (Saturday) is voting to give the president a green light to escalate the war," said Reid.

Democratic leaders in the House successfully pushed through the resolution Friday, winning the support of 17 of the chamber's 201 Republican members.

The White House immediately dismissed the document, noting that it was non-binding, and warned Democrats against moving toward cutting off war funding.

The House voted 246-182 for the motion, finally giving voice to US voters who swept the Democratic Party to power in both chambers of Congress in November elections amid a wave of anger over the Iraq war.

The resolution says "Congress disapproves of the decision of President George W. Bush announced on Jan. 10, 2007" to send an additional 21,500 troops to Iraq.

It adds that "Congress and the American people will continue to support and protect the members of the United States armed forces who are serving or who have served bravely and honorably in Iraq." The vote ended a week of debate, the most serious organized on the Iraq war since the US-led invasion in March 2003 to topple dictator Saddam Hussein. More than 3,100 US troops have since died.

"Some of our House colleagues claimed this week that this resolution is merely symbolic and meaningless," said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer.

"If they believe that the sentiments of the people's House expressed by an overwhelming majority is meaningless and only symbolic, then our democracy is at risk," he said.

"What the president cannot veto is the opinion of the Congress of the United States, the judgment of the United States Congress, the advice and counsel of the Congress of the United States," he said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

KL top cop suggests confining guest workers

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's police chief suggested confining foreigners to their work premises and putting them under 24-hour surveillance to prevent crime, reports on Saturday said. The Inspector-General of Police Musa Hassan said that the move would deter them from getting involved in rising criminal activity, the New Straits Times reported. "Under the plan, foreign workers, the majority of whom are contract workers, will be placed in their *kongsi* (workers quarters) at (their) work site and their activities monitored by the contractor even after their working hours," Musa was quoted as saying by the newspaper. He said the workers would have to register with their employers, who are usually building contractors, if they wished to go out during breaks or days off. *AFP*

US deploys stealth fighters in Japan

KADENA, JAPAN—The US flew its latest stealth fighter jets into Japan on Saturday for their first overseas deployment in a show of strength days after North Korea signed a deal on its nuclear program. Two F-22A Raptors, which can evade radar detection at supersonic speeds, touched down on the southern island of Okinawa, strategically located near the Korean peninsula and the Taiwan Strait. Ten more were due to arrive at the US Kadena air force base on Sunday for the temporary deployment, which is expected to include drills in Japan and South Korea. The deployment of the jets and their 250 personnel, who are based at Langley in Virginia, has caused protests from North Korea and some residents of Okinawa, which shoulders half the US troops in Japan. The deployment followed North Korea's first ever nuclear test in October and a string of missile launches last July. *AFP*

7 al-Qaida associates draw life terms

ISTANBUL—A Turkish court on Friday handed down life sentences to seven al-Qaida associates for their involvement in deadly suicide bombings against Jewish and British targets in Istanbul in 2003. Among them was Syrian national Louai Sakka who masterminded and provided the financing for the November attacks against two synagogues, the British consulate and the British bank HSBC. The remaining six were Turkish citizens convicted of organizing the bombings that killed 63 people and injured some 600 others. The court ruled that five of those sentenced to life, including Sakka, should not be allowed to benefit from any sentence reductions or amnesties. *AFP*

Moth threatens favorite Mexican food

MEXICO CITY—A moth with a big appetite that once chomped its way through huge swaths of cacti in Australia has landed in Mexico, where the spiky plant is a favorite food stuff and major agricultural product. Officials said on Friday a moth trapped close to the beach resort of Cancun this week could be the same species that destroyed some 20 million hectares of cacti in Australia, opening the possibility the moth will spread to Mexico's cactus farming regions. The edible cactus, or nopal, industry in Mexico is worth about $150 million each year. About 10,000 farmers cultivate the plant. In markets across the country quick-fingered vendors strip the cactus leaves of their spines and stack them in vivid green piles. The cooked leaves have a slimy texture and a tart taste and are eaten in tacos or mixed with eggs. They are a major source of fiber, vitamins and minerals. Many adherents of natural medicine say the plant helps weight loss. *Reuters*

Chili pepper from India is world's hottest

LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO—India's Bhut Jolokia chili has been confirmed as the world's hottest pepper by The Guinness Book of Records, a US researcher said. Bhut Jolokia comes in at 1,001,304 Scoville heat units, a measure of hotness for a chili. It is nearly twice as hot as Red Savina, the variety it replaces as the hottest. By comparison, an average jalapeno measures at about 10,000. *AP*

Rio's Carnival kicks off under shadow of violence

A DANCER from the Imperador do Ipiranga samba school does a number at the sambodrome in Sao Paulo, Feb. 16. AP

RIO DE JANEIRO—BRAZIL'S RAUCOUS CARNIVAL celebrations kicked off in Rio de Janeiro on Friday with tens of thousands dancing and singing in the streets, defying a recent surge of gun violence in the city's slums.

Carnival's samba-dancing King Momo—the Lord of Misrule—and his shimmying Queen and Princess were handed a giant symbolic key to the city in a sun-lit park as a band played Rio's boisterous anthem "the Marvelous City."

"The city has its problems but now we're full of hope, and we salute all those who come to visit us for the world's biggest Carnival," Mayor Cesar Maia said, urging revelers not to let the violence spoil their annual party.

King Momo, known the rest of the year as Alex de Oliveira, an architect, called on his loyal Carnival subjects to "play a lot and forget about our woes."

The main parades start on Sunday but neighborhood groups known as "blocos" began the party on a beachside avenue and in city streets across Rio on Friday afternoon.

Rio has some 300 blocos and its most traditional, founded in 1918 with the name "Cordao do Bola Preta," is expected to lead 150,000 people into the downtown area early on Saturday.

This year's festivities are being held under the shadow of gunfights and turf battles that have killed dozens of people in recent weeks and exposed Rio's dark side.

A national security force has been sent to Rio to fight drug traffickers that control its teeming slums, or *favelas*. At least 15 people have been killed in the past week in clashes.

The crackdown intensified in the days leading up to Carnival, with police occupying some of the *favelas*.

A well-known leader of the Salgueiro samba school and his wife were slain execution-style after leaving a Carnival rehearsal on Tuesday.

Public outrage came to a head this week after a 6-year-old boy was killed, dragged through the city under a speeding vehicle by carjackers.

"People won't pass up the chance to celebrate, but they will take lots of precautions," said Teresa Sofia, 42, a psychologist. "I'm tired of seeing people armed with guns in street parades."

The security plan for Carnival calls for 1,000 police officers and 750 city guards to patrol the Sambadrome, where the top samba schools parade over Sunday and Monday nights in a globally televised spectacle. *Reuters*

Milan judge orders CIA agents to stand trial for '03 kidnap

NASR REUTERS

MILAN—A MILAN JUDGE ON Friday ordered 26 Americans, most of them believed to be CIA agents, to stand trial with Italian spies for kidnapping a Muslim cleric and flying him to Egypt, where he says he was tortured.

Among those indicted for the 2003 abduction are the former heads of the US Central Intelligence Agency in Rome and Milan, and the former head of Italy's SISMI military intelligence agency, Nicolo Pollari, defense lawyers said.

The trial of the Americans will almost certainly be in absentia, since Washington is not expected to hand them over.

The trial, set to begin on June 8, will be the first criminal case over "renditions"—one of the most controversial aspects of US President George W. Bush's war on terrorism.

Prosecutors say a CIA-led team, with SISMI's help, grabbed terrorism suspect Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, also known as Abu Omar, off a Milan street in February 2003, bundled him into a van and drove him to a military base in northern Italy.

From there, prosecutors allege the CIA flew him via Germany to Egypt where he says he was tortured with electric shocks, beatings, rape threats and genital abuse.

Nasr was released from prison on Sunday and says he would like to return to Italy, where an Italian judge has issued a warrant for his arrest over suspicion of terrorist activity.

"I have been reduced to a wreck of a human being," he told ANSA news agency after his release. In another interview this week he said he could hardly walk: "They burst my kidneys."

Washington acknowledges secret transfers of terrorism suspects to third countries but denies using or sanctioning torture.

The State Department referred questions to the Justice Department, which had no comment.

"Our official, public view is that this is an internal, Italian judicial matter," said State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack.

The case is being closely watched in Europe. The European Parliament approved a report on Wednesday saying governments in the region helped conceal secret US transfers of terrorism suspects.

A court in Munich issued arrest warrants last month for 13 suspected CIA agents accused of kidnapping a German of Lebanese descent and flying him to a jail in Afghanistan, where he too says he was tortured.

Amnesty International said Friday's indictments piled pressure on Washington to stop renditions. "Every time one turns around, another ally, international or regional body rises to reject this horrendous practice," it said.

Italy has not acknowledged any role in the kidnapping but Pollari's predecessor said in a deposition that the then CIA chief in Rome, Jeff Castelli, had raised the possibility of renditions in Italy just days after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

An Italian police officer, who has accepted a 21-month jail term instead of risking a heavier sentence by going to trial, has acknowledged helping the CIA grab Nasr.

But he says the CIA's Milan station chief at the time, Robert Lady, told him the purpose was to recruit the imam as an informer, not abduct him. Both Lady and Castelli were indicted. *Reuters*

Infants form memories, but quickly forget

By Randolph E. Schmid

SAN FRANCISCO—ADULTS thinking back rarely remember anything before preshool, but infants really are forming memories. They simply forget.

In fact, babies' rate of forgetting is even faster than that of adults, Patricia J. Bauer of Duke University said Friday at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Bauer was part of a panel discussing "infant amnesia," the puzzling inability of people to remember events early in life.

Researchers have long speculated that babies' brains were simply unable to form memories, but Bauer said new research indicates that is incorrect.

While rates of memory development vary among infants, all babies are extremely intelligent, added Lisa M. Oakes of the University of California, Davis. "The task they have before them is overwhelming."

Infants are very good at extracting information from their environment, said Oakes.

The ability to form memories depends on a network of structures in the brain and these develop at different times, Bauer said. As the networks come together between six months and 18 months of life, researchers see increased efficiency in the ability to form short- and long-term memory, she said.

From age 6 months to 2 years, memory increases from about 24 hours to a year, she said.

But, noting that children, like adults, forget, she compared the brains of infants and adults to colanders used to drain food. The adult colander has small holes, for draining something like orzo or rice, while the infant colander has larger holes, such as for draining large penne pasta, but allowing more information to flow out.

Adults' earliest memory of childhood tends to be of emotional events, either positive or negative, she added.

"Our lives completely depend on being able to remember the past," Bauer said, and that matures during the first two years of life.

Bauer said infants were tested by using objects such as cups and blocks. In one test a baby would be shown two cups, a block would be put into one, the other cup would be put over the top and the group would be shaken to form a rattle.

This is something children do not do instinctively, she explained, but once they see it they can copy it, and researchers can see how long they remember when given the same objects.

Oakes said she studied infants by watching how long they would look at something. Babies will look longer at something new than something they are familiar with, she said, which allows researchers to calculate how long the baby remembers something.

Tracy DeBoer of the University of California, Davis, said babies born to diabetic mothers are at increased risk of memory loss. Such children may have shortages of oxygen and iron before birth and that can cause impaired memory when they are growing.

That impairment did not occur in cases where the mothers' diabetes was controlled during pregnancy, she added. *AP*

LEBANESE MOTHER AND CHILD. Tots tend to develop 'infant amnesia,' researchers say, making such tender moments fleeting. AFP

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

MORE LEGAL CONFUSION

In will, Smith left estate to now dead son

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA—FORMER PLAYboy model Anna Nicole Smith wanted her now dead son to inherit her estate, according to a will released Friday amid legal wrangling over the body of the billionaire's widow who died in Florida last week.

ANNA NICOLE SMITH with Howard Stern, her attorney and lover, in this Oct. 2, 2000 photo. AP

The will, which named Smith's boyfriend Howard K. Stern as the executor of her estate, raised new questions in the tangled and at times bizarre case that has kept the controversial celebrity in the morgue since her Feb. 8 death.

The document was released after a Florida judge ordered the embalming of her body, as lawyers for Stern and Smith's estranged mother argued over whether the late model should be buried in her native Texas or in the Bahamas.

The will is dated 2001, five years before Smith's son Daniel died in the Bahamas. His still-unexplained death came three days after the birth of Smith's daughter Danielynn, whom Stern and other men claim to have fathered.

"Except as otherwise provided in this will, I have intentionally omitted to provide for my spouse and other heirs, including future spouses and children," the will states.

But it also mentions that Stern should hold the estate in trust for incremental distribution to "my children," who would receive one-third of the capital and interest at age 25, another third when they reach 30 and the remainder at 35.

Lawyers for Smith's mother, Virgie Arthur, argued that the will, presented at a hearing Friday, was invalid because it was not filed in a court at the time.

Stern has been ordered to travel from the Bahamas to attend another hearing on Tuesday in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, near the hotel where Smith died at the age of 39 in circumstances police are still investigating.

Stern, who lived with Smith and her daughter in a mansion in Nassau, claims the former Playboy model wanted to be buried near her Bahamas home, alongside her son.

The order for the body to be embalmed was issued during Friday's hearing, which was surrounded by the same media frenzy that marked the life of the late buxom blonde, who had married a wheelchair-bound, 89-year-old oil billionaire when she was 26.

"I want to maintain the beauty and dignity of Anna Nicole Smith," Judge Larry Seidlin said as he issued the order.

But he made it clear, at a hearing attended by Smith's mother, that the human remains could not be released until it is determined where she would be buried.

He expressed hope the issue would be resolved promptly so the reality TV show star can finally rest in peace.

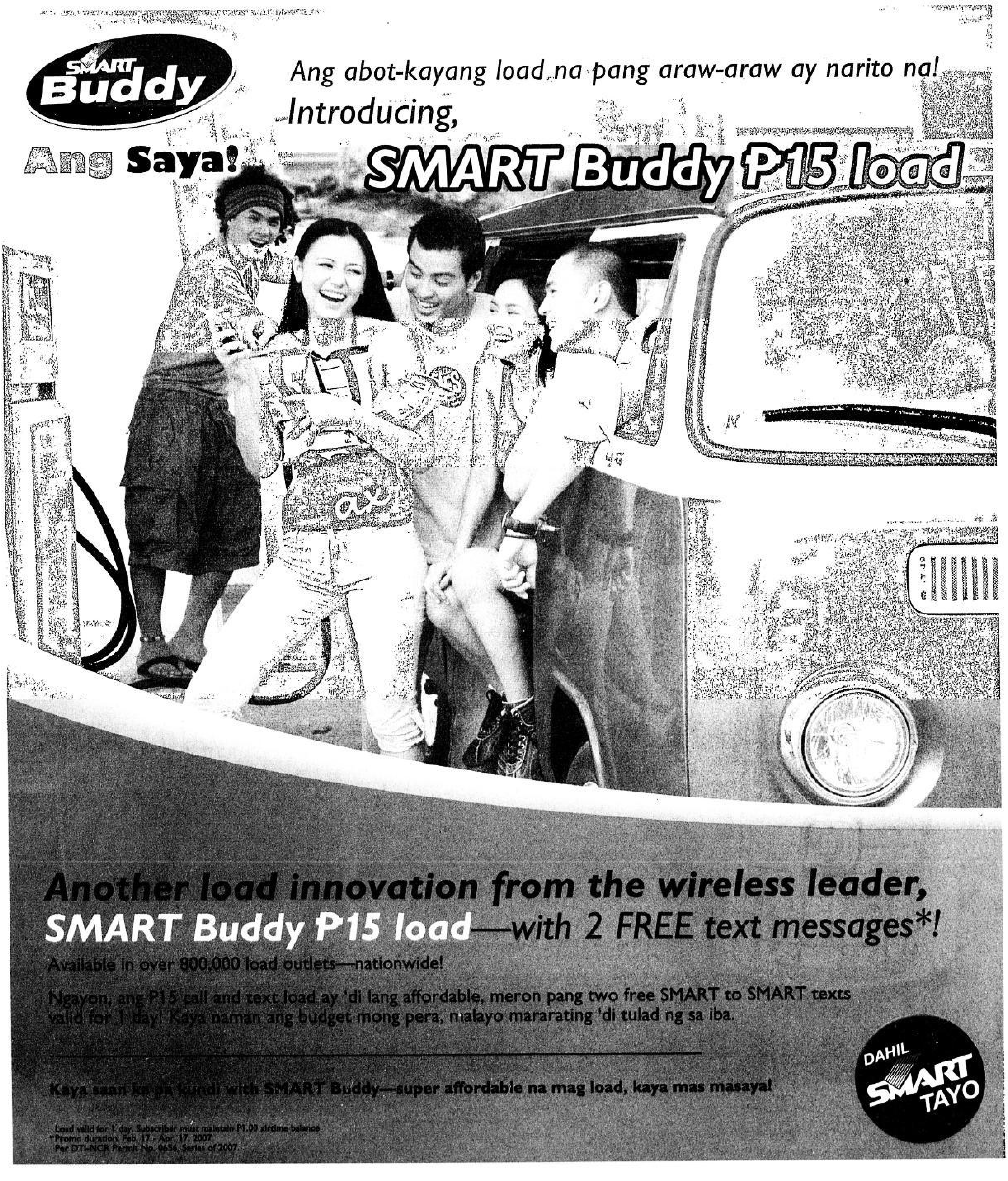
"I want peace and tranquility not only for the dead but also for the living who want to visit her grave," he said.

The burial has also been delayed by rival claims by Stern and Smith's former boyfriend Larry Birkhead over the paternity of Smith's 5-month-old baby.

In another twist, the husband of actress Zsa Zsa Gabor, Frederic von Anhalt, on Thursday asked a Los Angeles court to recognize he was the baby's father.

The paternity case is being tried in California, but questions over samples taken from Smith's body for DNA testing also contributed to keeping her human remains at the morgue.

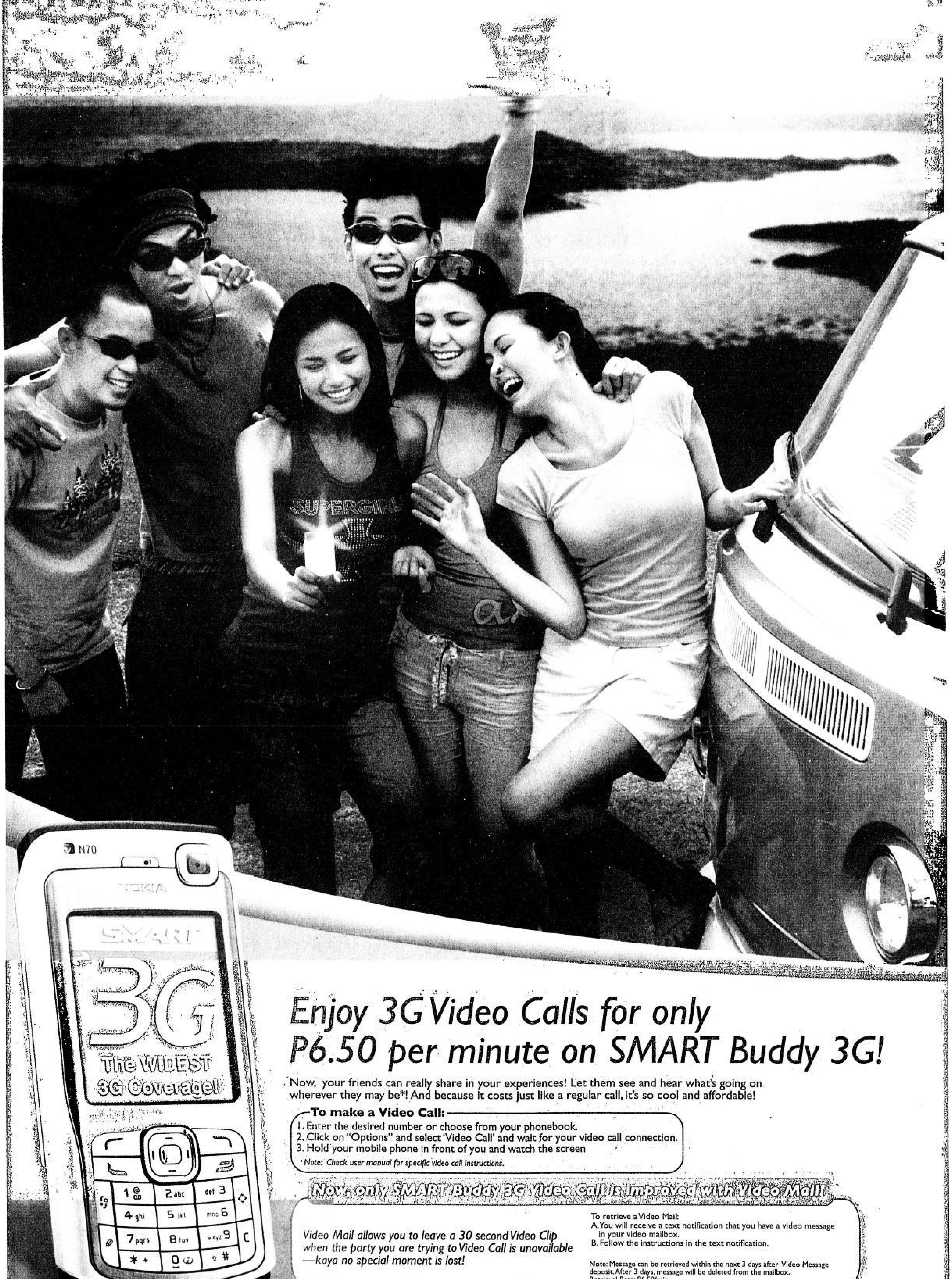
The local medical examiner on Thursday took a swab of the body to provide additional material for DNA testing in the paternity suit, after he had earlier taken bone and blood samples. *AFP*


SMART Buddy
Ang Saya!
Ang abot-kayang load na pang araw-araw ay narito na!
Introducing,
SMART Buddy P15 load
Another load innovation from the wireless leader,
SMART Buddy P15 load—with 2 FREE text messages*!
Available in over 800,000 load outlets—nationwide!
Ngayon, ang P15 call and text load ay 'di lang affordable, meron pang two free SMART to SMART texts valid for 1 day! Kaya naman ang budget mong pera, malayo mararating 'di tulad ng sa iba.
Kaya saan ka pa kundi with SMART Buddy—super affordable na mag load, kaya mas masaya!
DAHIL SMART TAYO
Load valid for 1 day. Subscriber must maintain P1.00 airtime balance.
*Promo duration: Feb. 17 - Apr. 17, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0656, Series of 2007

SMART Buddy

Ang Saya!

Mas masaya nang i-share ang iyong gimik with SMART Buddy 3G ***Video Call*** *now with* ***Video Mail.***



Enjoy 3G Video Calls for only P6.50 per minute on SMART Buddy 3G!

Now, your friends can really share in your experiences! Let them see and hear what's going on wherever they may be*! And because it costs just like a regular call, it's so cool and affordable!

To make a Video Call:

1. Enter the desired number or choose from your phonebook.
2. Click on "Options" and select 'Video Call' and wait for your video call connection.
3. Hold your mobile phone in front of you and watch the screen

Note: Check user manual for specific video call instructions.

Now, only SMART Buddy 3G Video Call is improved with Video Mail!

Video Mail allows you to leave a 30 second Video Clip when the party you are trying to Video Call is unavailable —kaya no special moment is lost!

To retrieve a Video Mail:
A. You will receive a text notification that you have a video message in your video mailbox.
B. Follow the instructions in the text notification.

Note: Message can be retrieved within the next 3 days after Video Message deposit. After 3 days, message will be deleted from the mailbox.
Retrieval Rate: P6.50/min

Kaya saan ka pa kundi sa SMART Buddy 3G para lagi kang connected.
Lahat ng gimik mo, gimik din nila!

To activate SMART 3G, type SET 3G <handset model> send to 211. Ex. SET 3G N70 (P2.50/text)

To avail of the 3G services, get any of these available handsets at affordable prices from SMART Buddy** or SMART Gold***

Nokia N70**
Nokia N90**
Nokia 6680**
Nokia 6151
Nokia N80
Nokia N93
Sony Ericsson K610i
Nokia 6233
Motorola E770
Sony Ericsson K800i
Nokia N73
Motorola V3X
Sony Ericsson P990i
Nokia 6288
Motorola V3XX
Motorola V3XX (HSDPA)
Nokia N70 Music Edition
Sony Ericsson K608i**
Nokia N73 Music Edition

***Avail of a SMART Gold Plan now! Apply online at http://www.smart.com.ph/gold

*Network and handset dependent. Service is also available to all SMART Gold Subscribers. Rates depend on plan rates.
International Video Calls are charged regular IDD (selected countries/operators only) rates.
For details visit http://www.smart.com.ph/3G

DAHIL SMART TAYO

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE

▨ **Sophomores rout Rookies** in NBA All-Stars /A26

▨ **Hatfield: Long rest might** hurt streaking Kings/A28

Harbour Centre bags Silver Cup via sweep

SAN JUAN Mayor JV Ejercito awards the trophy to officials, players and supporters of Harbour Centre, which nailed its second straight PBL championship by sweeping Hapee PCU in the Silver Cup finals. Story on A28. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Miñoza nears breakthrough golf triumph

IT SEEMS LOCAL HERO FRANKIE MIÑOZA HASN'T YET SATISfied his appetite for winning.

Two weeks after ruling the Philippine Open, Miñoza is knocking at the door for a breakthrough European Tour leg victory as the Filipino star emerged the provisional third round leader of the Enjoy Jakarta Astro Indonesia Open.

The 47-year-old Miñoza was on top of the leaderboard with a five-under card through 17 holes and eight-under for the tournament when play was called due to thunder and lightning at the Damai Indah Golf and Country Club.

The siren sounded as soon as he marked his ball on the 18th green and facing a testy par putt. The three players tailing him in the

MIÑOZA/ A24

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
"Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia"
Trucks & Equipment
AiA
SUPER MEGA 4-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
AUCTION DATES: FEB. 21, 22, 23, 24, 2007
(Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
Sale starts at 8:00 a.m.
Awarded as Philippines' #1 USED TRUCK DEALER
INSPECTION GOING ON!!
AUCTION STYLE: PARADE
INSPECTION DATES: FEB. 17, 18, 19, 20, 2007
(Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday)
UPGRADED QUALITY UNITS AND LATE MODEL TRUCKS

149 - EXCAVATORS — 1 of 4 SUMITOMO S260FA
30 - BULLDOZERS — 1 of 8 KOMATSU D60P-6 LGP
35 - WHEEL LOADERS — 8.0T HRS ONLY — 1 of 5 TCM 50BZ-2
59 - 10W CARGO TRUCKS — 1 of 31 ISUZU GIGA CYM CARGO TRUCK
71 - TRACTOR HEADS — 1 of 16 ISUZU GIGA EXR TRACTOR HEAD
14 - MOTOR GRADERS — 1 of 2 MITSUBISHI MG3
11 - VAN TRUCKS — 1 of 2 MITS CANTER 4W VAN (Late Model)
34 - TRAILERS — 1 of 3 LPG TANKER TRAILER-26.9KL
105 - GENERATOR SETS — 10-220 KVA

JOIN OUR AUCTION AND EXPERIENCE THE AIA ADVANTAGE!
Inquire & Register Online Via: www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Lower Mau Camp, Argonaut Hi-way, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel. +63(47) 252-3333 Fax: +63(47) 252-6840 / +63(47) 252-1441 Email: aiainc@subictel.com

SUN CELLULAR
Fixed Load Plan
Sagot ni Love ang load.
Sagot ng Sun ang camera phone.*

With Sun's Fixed Load Plan, giving cellphone allowance to your loved one has never been better!

MONTHLY LOAD ₱250
Nokia 1112 Integrated Handsfree Speaker

MONTHLY LOAD ₱350
Nokia 2310 Color Display w/ FM Radio
Philips S660 Camera & Video Phone
Motorola C261 Camera Phone
LG KG220 Camera Phone w/ Multi-shot Feature

Also available MONTHLY LOAD ₱600

- Get a FREE prepaid phone with your existing postpaid line.
- Just choose from a monthly** fixed load of P250, P350 or P600 which will be loaded into your loved one's prepaid account.
- The load will automatically be charged to your bill.
- Enjoy as many Fixed Load Plan accounts as you want.***.

Plus you can even add more load as needed via any of our Prepaid Reload Services!

Hurry to The Sun Shop now! For non-Sun subscribers, simply bring a valid I.D. and latest competitor bill. If competitor bill is not available bring proof of billing and proof of income.

24/7 CALL & TEXT UNLIMITED 24/7 TEXT UNLIMITED DAYLITE CALL UNLIMITED

* Available only for a Monthly Load of P350 and a Monthly Load of P600.
** For 24-months.
*** Subject to evaluation.

Hotline: 395-8000 www.suncellular.com.ph

SUN CELLULAR
Better network, better value.

Canlubang leads by 6; Agui rules Friendship

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

CAGAYAN DE ORO—DEFENDING CHAMPION Canlubang squeezed out a six-point lead over arch rival Luisita at the tough Del Monte course yesterday to pave the way for a thrilling finish in the Philippine Airlines Seniors Interclub tournament.

With Rollie Viray showing the way with 52 points, Canlubang assembled a five-man output of 252 as Tommy Manotoc, Luigi Yulo and team captain Tony Olives had 51 each and Lino Magpantay completed the balanced scoring with a 47.

Luisita, determined to regain the 55-years and above title following its misadventure last year in Davao, came up with the day's second best score of 53 from skipper Iggy Clavecilla and a 51 from Francis Gaston to boost its output and keep alive its bid for a big rally in today's last 18 holes at the Pueblo de Oro course here.

American Tom Culligan proved his worth with 49 points and fellow Luisita newcomer Freddie Mendoza chipped in 48 ahead of the 45 of PSC commissioner Richie Garcia that rounded out the Tarlac-based squad's total of 246 under the eight-to-play, five-to-count format.

Manila Southwoods made it a three-way fight by taking third with 242 as Korean Hur Jeon-tae, the club's 2005 senior champion, fired a one-under-par 71 for 55 points.

Butch Brodett backed him up with 51 points, Ben Borja and Cres Bendijo added 46 each and Ken Onda contributed 45.

Alabang was running fourth at 237, followed by Negros at 231 and Manila Golf at 228.

"Overall we are okay because we expected this balanced scoring from the team," said Olives. "We have a very good lead considering the conditions (at Del Monte) and we hope to keep this tomorrow."

Luisita, with 13 senior titles, is trying to wipe out the stigma of its disqualification last year due to an inadvertent fielding of a player not in the original roster.

Just as exciting will be the final round in the Founders division with the top four teams separated by only four points.

Cebu Country Club grabbed the lead with 233 points, just a point ahead of Camp Evangelista. Defending champion Wack Wack was third at 230 and Valley was fourth at 229.

Meanwhile, Camp Aguinaldo pulled off a come-from-behind victory in the Friendship division whose final round was embellished with a hole-in-one by Victor Gonzales of Lanang on the 150-yard, par-3 sixth hole of Pueblo.

A 65-year-old from Davao who migrated to Seattle, Washington, in 1986, Gonzales shot his fourth career ace with a nine iron and a No. 3 Titleist ball while playing in the company of Ben Liclican of Aguinaldo, Iligan's Tom Laya and Manny Yatco of PGA British Columbia.

The feat earned for Gonzales a roundtrip Manila-US first class ticket.

Aguinaldo won with a 436 total behind a team that included Liclican and Frank Manalo who helped the Quezon City club win three straight men's regular championship from 1988 under skipper Buddy Resureccion, now the PAL Interclub's tournament director.

Action Asia, Airbus, Boeing, Bombardier, Callaway Golf, 101.1 Crossover, GE Aviation, GECAS, Mizuno, People Asia and Royal Caribbean are the major sponsors while the corporate supporters are Business Mirror, Fortune Tobacco, GMA 7, Premier Wine & Spirits, www.inquirer.net, and Radio Mindanao Network, whose local station in Cagayan de Oro, DXCC, is celebrating its 55th anniversary.

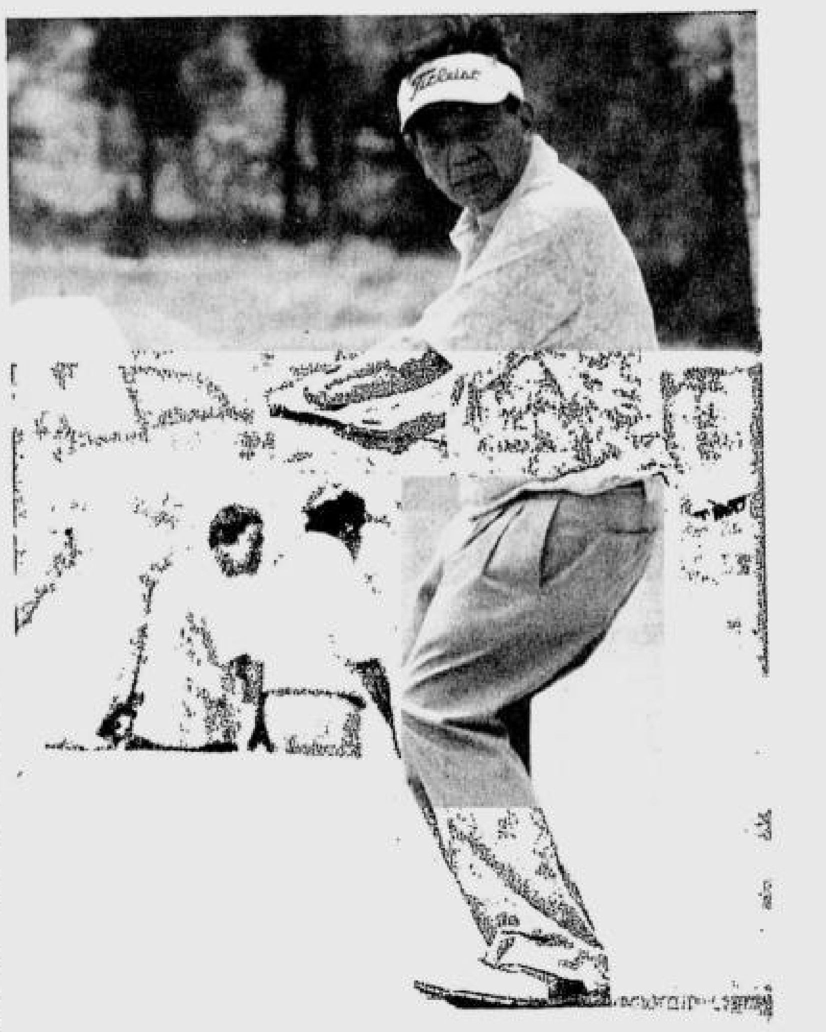
Other backers are Century Park Hotel, C-Lium Fibre, Foreign Post, Lufthansa Technik Philippines and What's On & Expat Communications.

The standings:

Championship—Canlubang 252; Luisita 246; Manila Southwoods 242; Alabang 237; Negros 231; Manila Golf 228; Greater Chicago Golf 173; Fil-Oz Sydney 160; Cotabato 159; UP Tee Jots 157; Leyte 150; Austral-Asian Golf 149; Zamboanga 133.

Founders—Cebu CC 233; Camp Evangelista 232; Wack Wack 230; Valley 229; Pueblo de Oro 225; Orchard 222; Phil. Navy 218; Mactan 217; Villamor 214; Riviera 202; Rancho Palos Verdes 190; Bacolod 183.

Friendship (final)—Camp Aguinaldo 436 (214-222); Iligan 421 (201-220); Lanang 421 (220-201); PGA British Columbia 401 (206-195); Club Intramuros 391 (187-204); Victorias 379 (197-182); Club Filipino 360 (181-179); Fil-Am SFO 350 (178-172); Brotherhood Sharp 343 (186-157); Moffet Field 338 (189-158); Fil-Am of Florida 336 (175 -161); IAGC San Diego 335 (166-169); M. Malindang 329 (166-163); Brookside 318 (171-146); Mercedes 314 (154-160); EZ Par 308 (164-144); Fort Bonifacio 301 (157-144); Skywest 285 (139-146).



COMELEC Chair Benjamin Abalos does a jig after a putt. JESS YUSON

FRANKIE Miñoza watches his tee shot during round three of the Enjoy Jakarta Astro Indonseia Open yesterday. AFP

Mickelson climbs to top with eagle

LOS ANGELES—MASTERS CHAMPION PHIL Mickelson rallied from a late bogey with an eagle to seize a share of the second-round lead at the Nissan Open on Friday, alongside Ireland's Padraig Harrington.

Mickelson posted a six-under-par 65 on the Riviera Country Club course, rebounding from his first bogey of the tournament at 16 by sinking a 15-foot eagle putt at the next to join Harrington on 11-under 131.

Harrington, who started the day with a three-shot lead over a trio led by Mickelson, fired a three-under 68.

American Charles Howell was three shots behind the leaders after a 65 for 134.

Spain's Sergio Garcia (68), England's David Howell (68), Australian Robert Allenby (66) and American Pat Perez (69), were tied at seven-under 135.

Harrington, playing this tournament for the first time, had settled down after a wild start and appeared poised to take the lead into the third round when Mickelson failed to get up and down from a bunker at the three 16th.

But Mickelson took advantage of the opportunity offered by the par-five 17th to pull even.

"It was important to get a birdie on the 17th, I thought," Mickelson said of his attitude after dropping a shot to fall two adrift.

"It's a birdie hole," he added. "I was just trying to get down there in two ... I hit it perfect and I made the putt." Mickelson, who added this tournament to his schedule after winning his first title of the year at Pebble Beach on Sunday, said he was hitting the ball well.

"I really like the way I'm putting the ball in play," he said. "From the fairway, you can be aggressive into these greens." He said that was an advantage for Harrington, even though the Riviera course is unfamiliar to the Irishman. *AFP*

Miñoza nears breakthrough...

From page A23

standings had at least four more holes to play.

The second round was also suspended Friday and some players had to complete their rounds early yesterday.

Miñoza barely escaped disaster on the par-4 18th hole with an errant drive landing onto a flower bed right at the edge of the lake lining the fairway. He played out but wedged to within short distance of the flag.

Korean Suk Jong-yul and Finland's Mikko Ilonen were at seven under with three and four holes to play, respectively, while Australia's Andrew Tampion was at five under with four to play.

Tony Carolan of Australia fired a 67 and Shiv Kapur of India carded a 69 to emerge the clubhouse leaders at 209.

"It is quite funny actually and I'm not frustrated at all. The weather here has been quite unpredictable with the rain and heat but it's part of the game," said Miñoza in the Asian Tour website.

"I changed my swing just a little bit during the end of year break and I think that's the key," he added. "I underwent laser surgery (with the American Eye Center) on my eyes which has helped improve my vision tremendously out on course.

"I was short sighted but now, I can see much further, which helps a great deal when I am on course. The surgery was done after the Volvo Masters of Asia in December and I can see the improvement now."

Should Miñoza go on to win the $1.05 million event co-sanctioned by the European Tour and the Asian Tour today, he stands to go home with at least $200,000 (about P10 million) for his biggest check ever.

He will also earn full-exempt status in the European Tour and will be qualified to play in the British Open.

Miñoza has re-appeared in the world rankings following his RP Open victory and is currently ranked 150th in the world. *Jong Arcano*

CREAMER: Seven under AFP

Pressel shares lead; Rosales rally falls short

KAHUKU, HAWAII—MORGAN PRESSEL fired a four-under-par 68 here Friday to join Paula Creamer and Sherri Steinhauer atop the leaderboard after two rounds of the $1.1 million LPGA SBS Open.

Pressel, an 18-year-old pro best known for her second-place finish as an amateur at the 2005 US Women's Open, had five birdies and a bogey on the Palmer Course at Turtle Bay to join the tie atop the leaderboard at seven-under 137.

Filipino-American Dorothy Delasin shot a 76 and barely made the cut at 148.

Pulled down by her opening 79, Filipino Jennifer Rosales failed to advance despite firing a 70.

Paige MacKenzie, playing her first tournament as an LPGA member, had started the day tied with Creamer and Steinhauer atop the leaderboard.

But she fell apart with six bogeys and a double-bogey on the par-four 17th for a 76 and is seven shots back.

After back-to-back bogeys at 11 and 12, the 20-year-old Creamer rallied with a pair of birdies to finish with a 70 to keep her share of the lead.

Steinhauer, winner of last year's Women's British Open, had six birdies and four bogeys en route to her 70.

South Korean Hee-Won Han, sparked by an eagle on the par-five ninth, posted her second straight 69 to lie one shot off the pace.

Pat Hurst carded a 68 that was highlighted by an eagle on the par-five third and was tied with Paraguay's Julieta Granada (71) and Briton Janice Moodie (70), two adrift.

Coming off five victories last year, including the Kraft Nabisco Championship, Karrie Webb signed for 70 for the second straight day. She was in a three-way tied with Mexico's Lorena Ochoa (69) and South Korean Seon Hwa Lee (70).

Defending-champion Joo Mi Kim missed the cut with a 74 that included a double-bogey on the par-three 15th. *AFP*

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1 — (Tri) — Henry D'Eight (3), Best of Thunder (5), Thor Azura/Thor Kenchana (2)
Race 2 — (Qrt/Tri) — Grand Fiesta (1), Sol Invictus (4), Ideal Gaze (5), Smiling Jaeda (6)
Race 3 —(Qrt/Tri) — Sharp Thunder (3), Sagarmatha (2), Beaux Yeux (5), Flirt of the Wind (7)
Race 4 — (Penta/Qrt/Tri) — Hard to Find (5), Native Land (3), Flying Princess (8), Red Star Rising (2), Ocean Deep (9)
Race 5 — (Qrt/Tri) — Golden Song (3), BMI Baby (4), Bachelor of Arts (6), Tukmo (2)
Race 6 — (Penta/Qrt/Tri) — Fahrenheit (9), Take Ten (1), I Miss You (8), Irish Connection (10), Red Bells (7)
Race 7 — (Ever Mine Now (4), Glory and Honour (1), Denseuse (2), Fairy Queen (4)
Race 8 — (Qrt/Tri) — Ole! Ole! Ole! (4), Given (1), Terminator (3), Concorde (6)
Race 9 — (Super Six/Qrt/Tri) — Landed Visa (9), Magio Key (4), Donna Messier (2), Ayan Na Ako (6), Royal Scepter (10), Spanish Drums (11)
Eace 10 — (Penta/Qrt/Tri) — Lady Thunder (1), Showgirl (6), In Excess (3), Air D'Truth (4), Minsk Quest (5)
Race 11 — (Tri) — Stop Talking (1), Mamaya (2), Gold Is Gold (3)
Race 12 — (Qrt/Tri) — Kaiphia (7), Striker (1), Erica's Talent (6), Passing Through (2)
Race 13 — (Super 6/Qrt/Tri) — Clear Stone (8), Real Tough (3), Runa Like D'Wind (11), Quant Je Puis (2), La Signorina/Exceptional Gem (11), House of Riches (5)

Ilagan scores 3rd ace at Manila Southwoods

FORMER NATIONAL TENNIS PLAYER MARTY ILAGAN SCORED his third career hole-in-one during the monthly members tournament of the Manila Southwoods Golf and County Club on Feb. 10. Ilagan aced the 186-yard 12th hole of the Southwoods Legends course with a Titleist 804OS 6-iron and a Bridgestone B330s ball while playing with Beachie Abiera, Tony Lin and Linda Wang. His earlier aces were scored at Villamor No. 4 in 1995 and Mimosa Lakeview No.2 . He also made a double eagle at Southwoods Masters No. 18 last December.

Santillan seeks OPBF crown June 9 in Japan

Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

CEBU-BASED REV. 'GENTLE GIANT' Santillan will get another crack at his old title when he challenges reigning OPBF welter champ Taesei Marumoto on June 9 in Osaka, Japan.

This was confirmed yesterday by Rex 'Wakee' Salud, who manages Santillan, in an interview.

Salud, a close associate of superstar Manny Pacquiao, said that the date has been firmed up by his Japanese contacts, and that his ward is ready to face his old foe once again to see who is the better fighter between the two.

On August 7, 2004, then OPBF champion Santillan defended his title against Marumoto, edging the latter on a unanimous decision in a fight held also in Osaka, Japan.

Since their first encounter, Santillan had lost the fight to another Japanese Kazuhiko Hidaka, regained it in their rematch, only to lose the title to another Japanese Hiroshi Yamaguchi last year.

Marumoto, meanwhile, had found a new resolve to defeat Yamaguchi on a seventh-round technical knockout last year.

This time, Santillan will be the challenger against the now reigning champion Marumoto, and the confrontation is an anticipated bout among boxing fans.

Santillan last saw action on Feb. 12, defeating Japanese Shana Kisaragi via unanimous decision. On the same card, Marumoto defended his title in the main event, defeating compatriot Yoshinori Takenaka on a ninth-round technical knockout.

Imported Stakes Series first leg kicks off big races

CARMONA, CAVITE—THE FIRST BIG race of the year comes off the wraps today at the ultra-modern San Lazaro Leisure Park here with six classy chargers contesting honors in the first leg of the 2007 Imported Stakes Series.

Speedball Ever Mine Now, the multi-titled six-year-old bay mare, who will be piloted by ace Jonathan B. Hernandez, looms as the slight pick in the 1,500-meter race which offers P480,000 to the winner.

The daughter of American Odyssey out of Ever Mine could get the bettors' nods only because of the short distance, even as a number of those in the field also possess great credentials and have actually defeated Ever Mine Now in the past.

Among those are Glory and Honour and Danseuse, stayers who will actually be coming off strong showings in the Open Championship last Dec. 31 at the Santa Ana Park in Makati.

Superhorse Real Spicy won that one, clocking a record-tying 2-minutes and 8.6 seconds to win by six lengths over Empire King and by a couple more over the third placed Glory and Honour and Danseuse.

Patty Dilema handles Glory and Honour, the Honour and Glory out of Sunflower progeny who will run over this track for the first time in his career.

Jessie B. Guce steers the Hermie Esguerra-owned and Ruben Clor-conditioned Danseuse, a four-year-old chestnut daughter of Australian stallion Danasinga out of New Zealand broodmare Hula Sound.

Danseuse owns a victory over Ever Mine Now, clocking an impressive 1:29.3 over 1,450 meters at the Santa Ana last December 2.

Fairy Queen, another stayer to be reined in by Lord Santos, longshot Ziraz, under RK Hipolito, and Deputy Stravinsky, who will have JM Manalo aboard, round out the compact but talented field.

Deputy Stravinsky could prove to be a worthy longshot bet, the Michael Cunanan-owned bay colt owning a fierce finishing kick, the one he displayed in turning back Pacman and Macho Man in a juvenile race last year.

Post time is around 4:55 p.m. with second place worth P180,000, third P100,000 and fourth place still good for P40,000.

Musong R. Castillo

PBA board: Chot's the man

League gives Reyes fresh mandate as nat'l coach

By Musong R. Castillo

BACK TO THE ORIGINAL script.

Chot Reyes yesterday got a fresh mandate from the Philippine Basketball Association's board of governors to select the players and handle the RP Team when it returns to the international scene via two major tournaments this year.

The firebrand San Miguel coach, whose appointment to the same job two years ago actually triggered the leadership squabble in the sport, will mentor what could be an all-PBA team to the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) championship this summer.

Reyes' appointment still needs to be formalized by the search committee formed by the Basketball Association of the Philippines-Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (BAP-SBP) but PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, the chair of that committee sees little problem with naming the San Miguel mentor.

"After all the work he has put in to form the program that was suspended only by the controversy, I can't see any reason why the committee would not move towards that direction," said Trinidad.

Reyes will also call the shots when the country's best and brightest see action in the Fiba-Asia Olympic qualifier in August.

The Seaba tournament is actually a qualifying event for the Fiba-Asia Olympic qualifier. But the Philippines traditionally just has too much talent not to win that event scheduled in May in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

It was also in the Seaba tournament in Malaysia in 2005 that the Philippines' problems in the international basketball scene started to surface, when a Basketball Association of the Philippines-endorsed RP Team was refused a slot in the tournament after the Philippine Olympic Committee had suspended the BAP.

REYES PDI PHOTO

So much has happened to RP basketball since then, with the BAP being expelled from the local Olympic movement by the General Assembly, the country being inactive internationally for the last two years and the creation of a new basketball body.

The Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas-Basketball Association of the Philippines is now the new cage body after getting conditional recognition from the POC recently. It is just awaiting reinstatement into the international federation (Fiba).

The BAP had questioned Reyes' appointment then, batting for its ward, Boysie Zamar, to be able to call the shots for that Seaba team.

Problems between the POC and the BAP arose after that, which eventually led to the suspension and then expulsion of the age-old basketball body and the trouble that shamed the country internationally.

Meanwhile, the PBA has also formed a management committee headed by league chairman Ricky Vargas of Talk `N Text, to look after the all-pro team.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala, Red Bull team manager Tony Chua and either the governor or alternate governor of San Miguel are the members of the committee, which will also decide whatever budget proposal Reyes will come up with.

The first time he handled the RP team in 2005, Reyes proposed a budget of P140 million.

Once the men's squad is formed, training for the SEABA tournament starts as soon as possible.

Hatfield: Long rest might hurt streaking Kings

By Musong R. Castillo

THE ONLY THING BARANGAY Ginebra did not want in winning Friday night is the fact that the Gin Kings don't get to play until five days later.

And that's quite understandable.

"We wanna play, because we have momentum," hardworking forward Rudy Hatfield told the INQUIRER after Game 4, which the Kings won pulling away, 146-111. "But I guess it works both ways. They (San Miguel Beermen) get to rest, and so do we."

The championship series, which was tied by Ginebra at two games each, will be taking a break today after the league failed to book a suitable venue.

"Because we won tonight (Friday), we would have wanted to play right away," Ginebra coach Jong Uichico said.

Ginebra has destroyed San Miguel in the last two games of the best-of-seven series, winning Game 3 by 30, 131-101 before that 35-point margin two nights ago, making it quite obvious that the Kings have the Beermen's numbers at this point.

And even San Miguel coach Chot Reyes has been left in a daze by the searing Ginebra run of the past two games.

"I think I'm doing a terrible job as a coach, a terrible job preparing the team," Reyes offered. "And I think playing six straight games (since the semifinals) is starting to take its toll on the players."

Hatfield, the tournament's leading rebounder with close to 13 a night, refused to say that they now have momentum because of the five-day break. But he did say that it would also favor them because Eric Menk can get stronger.

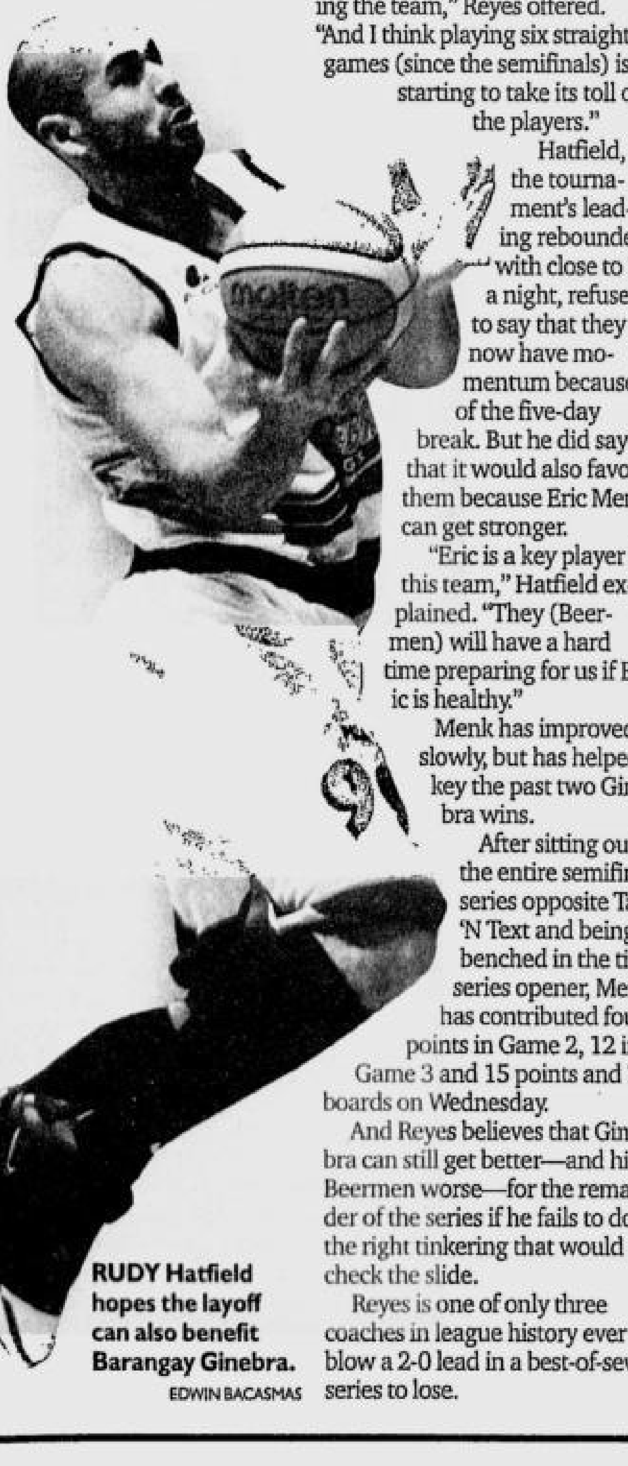
"Eric is a key player in this team," Hatfield explained. "They (Beermen) will have a hard time preparing for us if Eric is healthy."

Menk has improved slowly, but has helped key the past two Ginebra wins.

After sitting out the entire semifinal series opposite Talk 'N Text and being benched in the title series opener, Menk has contributed four points in Game 2, 12 in Game 3 and 15 points and 11 boards on Wednesday.

And Reyes believes that Ginebra can still get better—and his Beermen worse—for the remainder of the series if he fails to do the right tinkering that would check the slide.

Reyes is one of only three coaches in league history ever to blow a 2-0 lead in a best-of-seven series to lose.



RUDY Hatfield hopes the layoff can also benefit Barangay Ginebra.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Olympic bid needs lots of help, says PSC head

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITHOUT MALACAÑANG'S HELP, THE COUNTRY'S Olympic dream will remain just that—a dream.

Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez yesterday underscored yet again the need for government support as the country seeks to end an Olympic gold medal drought when Beijing hosts the quadrennial meet next year.

The PSC chief admitted that the country's preparation is slightly behind his charted schedule and added that he has yet to get in touch with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo regarding the training program, particularly the amount it would take to bankroll the ambitious plan.

Still, Ramirez is confident President Arroyo, through the First Gentleman, will issue much-needed help to the Olympic bid, especially since the PSC and the Philippine Olympic Committee have already singled out the 12 sports whose Olympic program will be given special attention.

The program, which the PSC chief estimated could cost at least P200 million, will allow athletes to receive world-class training.

Included in the priority sports are boxing, taekwondo, swimming, diving, track and field, archery, fencing, rowing, lawn tennis, wushu, shooting and equestrian.

RP triathletes face stiff test in national championship

By Jasmine W. Payo

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TRIATHLON team may have yet to get back in training, but they're sure getting some tough warm-up in the 2007 National Triathlon Championship today.

Southeast Asian Games medalists Arland Macasieb and Sandra Araullo will lead more than 150 triathletes in the 1.5K swim-40K bike-10K run event that will fire off and wind up early morning today at the Clearwater Country Club inside the Clark Special Economic Zone in Clarkfield, Pampanga.

The Olympic distance race will be one of the qualifying races for the selection of the national team in this year's Southeast Asian Games in Thailand.

And national triathlon coach Peter Gonzales expects tight competition among his wards.

"Our formal training program for the team starts after this event," said Gonzales. "The competition has always been tight in the national championships, more so that it is one of the three qualifying events for our triathletes."

The two other qualifiers for this year are the Asian Triathlon Championship in Tongyeong, Korea, and the ITU-point earning Subic Bay International Triathlon.

Also competing in the event are age grouper entries from Hong Kong led by Chak Fung Lau, Ching Ho Terence Lai, Simpson Kim Man Wong, Sam Brian Mitchelmore, Arthur Tak Hei Cheung, and Long Fung.

ARAULLO PDI PHOTO

Other top local contenders include Mikki Quilala, comebacking George Vilog, juniors Joash Serrano, Rowan Fernandez, Andrew Gatmaitan, and Hawaii-based triathlete Aaron Altura in the men's division; while LC Langit, Mimi Lucas, Kim Mangrobang, and Anna Gatmaitan lead the distaff side.

There will also be participants coming from Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Pampanga, Laguna, Angeles, Bulacan, Cavite, Baguio, Pangasinan, Romblon and Metro Manila.

"This is a good indication that triathlon continues to grow," said Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco. "That is why we are including kids triathlon and aquathlon events to encourage more young kids to get into the sport."

Other events on tap are the relay race in the Olympic distance, a 750m swim-20K bike-5K run sprint traithlon, a 350m swim-10K bike-2.5K run kids' triathlon, and a 350m swim-1.5K run aquathlon.

NCA holds blockbuster derby

THE NATIONAL COCKERS ASSOCIATION (NCA), the premier and most prestigious organization of sportsmen breeders in the country, will hold another one of its blockbuster derbies on Feb. 20 at the Pasay City cockpit.

The derby will be hosted by Sec. Ronnie Puno and Danny Valero.

It will feature the very best fighting cocks to be fielded in by the who's who in the world of cockfighting in the Philippines.

Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Boy Royo, and Lito Orillaza are just some of the guest entries of the hosts.

Also expected are former senator Ramon Revilla, Manny Pacquiao, Manolo Lopez, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, Edwin Abella, Boy Jiao, chairman Rudy Albano, Danding Cojuangco, Fiscal Villanueva, brothers Eddie and Boboy Araneta, Patrick Antonio, brothers Raffy and Mauro Prieto, JV Magsaysay, Baby Asistio, Johnny Jalandoni, Charing Magbuhos and Larry Mendoza.

The next NCA derbies will be held on March 6 and 8, 2007, to be hosted by people's champ Manny Pacquiao and Jerry Ramos.

Former Eaglet now soars in 'Desert High'

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

ALTHOUGH FIBA secretary general Patrick Baumann hinted during the BAP-SBP Unity Congress that the lifting of the Fiba ban on the Philippines would be automatic as soon as the new national sport association is recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee, BAP-SBP vice chairman Ricky Vargas said it will have to go through a process.

"The FIBA has its own process. We sent a letter the other night to Patrick with the attached POC accreditation and based on Baumann's statements, the lifting should happen sooner than later. SBP has complied with all the requirements," Ricky explained.

***

I'm sure some of you, basketball fanatics, who follow the UAAP Juniors games remember Gian Chiu who used to play for the Ateneo Eaglets.

I don't know how tall Gian was back then, but he is now described as "a hair over 6'7 tall and weighs 225 lbs." It was Henry Abes of Gameface who gave me the piece on Gian, which he culled from the website.

Gian Chiu, he said, is the biggest hit at the Desert Christian High School in Bermuda Dunes today, both on and off the court.

Chiu leads the Desert Christian Conquerors in scoring, blocks and rebounds and is part of Desert Christian's top-ranked academic team that will head to national competition in Washington DC this Spring.

***

On his first year at La Quinta, Chiu did not immediately see action and had to await his turn on account of a CIF rule that the school had to follow.

At Desert Christian, he immediately made waves, impressing his coach Don Curci.

"Last year our team was 1-11 (win-loss), now we're 10-3 and Gian is a big part of that. He averages 15.2 ppg and 11.3 rpg," said Curci.

"He's been a good addition to the student body both athletically and academically. He's a gentle giant but his main forte is his smarts. He's a straight A student, very organized and is always on top of things."

Gian, who has been raised by his parents to excel both in academics and athletics, is currently ranked No. 3 in class.

His long term goal is to become a doctor.

"I like the science field and look at it as an opportunity to use my talent and ability to help others. I just find it interesting and see it as a challenge," Chiu said.

***

Curci foresees Gian achieving both his athletic and academic goals.

"Basketball practice begins around 5 p.m., but when the school bell rings at the end of the day, Chiu doesn't hang around the lockers or take off with friends for fast food and fun. Chiu's usually buried in his books in an outside cafeteria-style table," Curci said.

Chiu helped his three other teammates as part of Desert Christian's academic team win top honors at Coachella Valley Academic Worldquest hosted by World Affairs Council of the Desert, earning a trip to Washington DC for the national tournament.

As the smallest school that competed, they were able to take home the biggest prize.

***

Scribe Ignacio Dee sends us this progress report on his friend, associate and idol Florencio Campomanes, who is currently recuperating at the Antolya Anadolu Hospital following a vehicular accident:

"He has been transferred from the ICU to a regular room, but still needs assistance to walk. He wants to go home to celebrate his 80th birthday, but health insurance won't allow him."

Not too long ago, Campo was in traction with a head, neck and chest brace due to multiple cervical spine fractures and was under heavy sedation. He is now getting treatment for post-trauma depression.

According to Campo's doctors, very active people usually cannot stand long periods of immobility.

Campo is one of the very few octagenarians who has maintained good health.

All-Star on 3D for first time

LOS ANGELES—A SELECT GROUP OF sports fans will watch the National Basketball Association All-Star game on Sunday in the first-ever live high-definition 3D sports telecast that NBA officials hope will create a buzz about profiting from the new technology.

Hollywood and movie theater owners also are watching the results closely because more 3D movies such as 2005's "Chicken Little" and alternative theater content like sports are expected to help boost attendance in theaters.

In Las Vegas, where the All-Star game will be played, the NBA is hosting a telecast at special screening rooms at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino. Seated there will be some 600 executives from sports, theater owners and broadcasting companies.

"Our hopes are to understand the emerging technology and where our world of entertainment is going and to be part of that, and maybe to direct it," said Michael Rokosa, vice president of engineering for NBA Entertainment.

Rokosa said the technology could be used to take the live sports arena experience to local theaters, and any future developments would include TV broadcasters that have rights to the live games.

"Our goal is ... to bring more viewers to the NBA and to widen our fan base," he said.

The games and exhibition events will be shot with an array of five, double-lensed cameras developed by Pace Technologies, a company founded by "Titanic" movie director James Cameron and camera designer Vince Pace. Cameron is now shooting "Avatar," his next film, in 3D using the Pace Fusion camera.

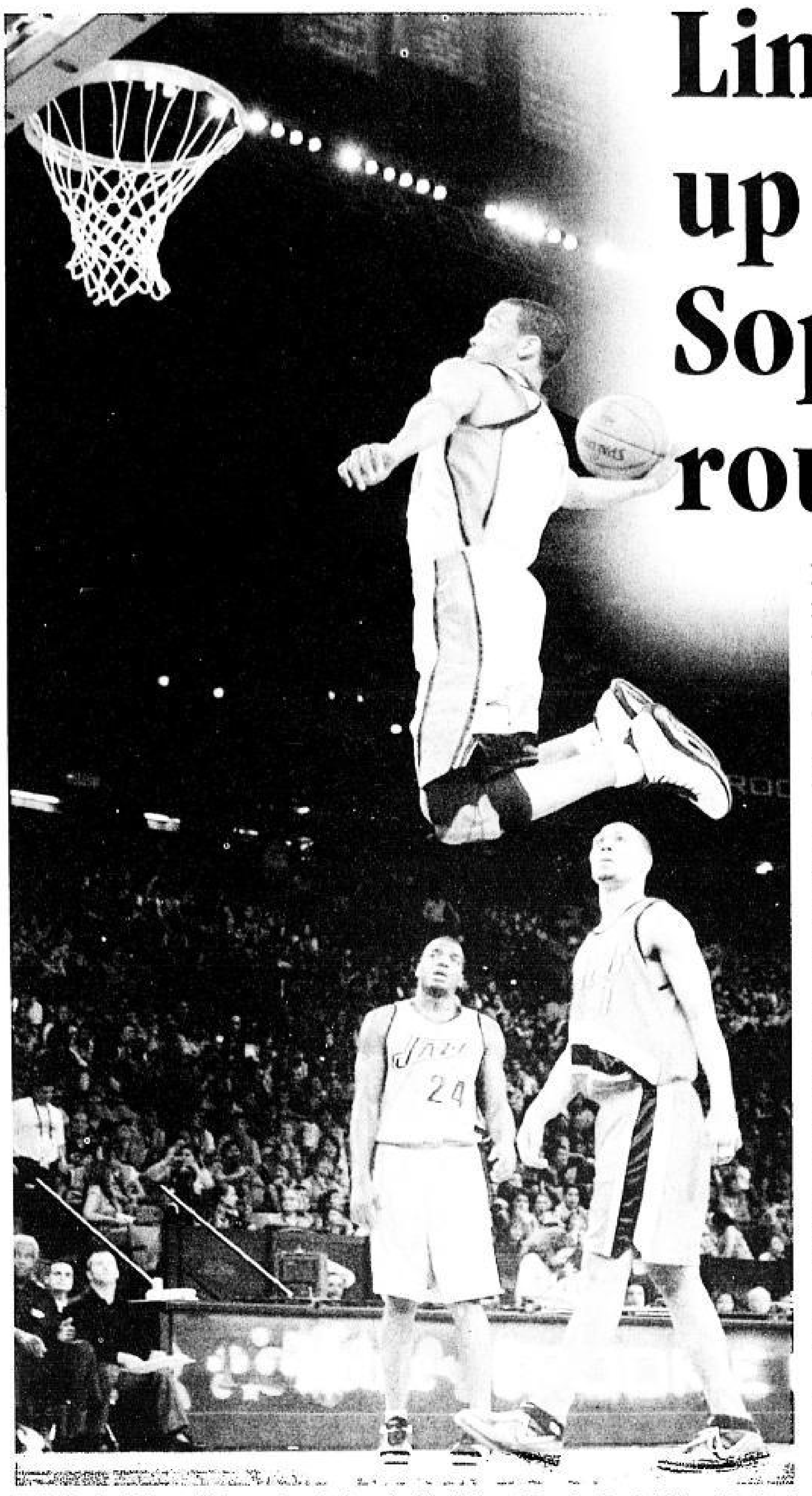
Sony Corp. stacked two of its digital 4K projectors to bring the 3D images to two, 40-foot silver screens provided by Real D, whose 3D projection system is the most widely used in U.S. theaters for screening 3D films.

Attendees will wear modern polarized glasses that enable them to see a 3D image. The cameras will be virtually stationary to avoid overwhelming viewers' senses, and audio will come from courtside instead of the announcers' booth.

"It feels like you are at the event," Pace said.

Depending on how the Las Vegas screening goes, the NBA may set up live, 3D screenings for public audiences for the NBA championship finals in June.

Reuters



THE Warriors' Monta Ellis jumps for a dunk against Trail Blazers' Brandon Roy (right) and the Jazz' Paul Millsap during the NBA All-Star Rookie Challenge Friday, The Sophomores won, 155-114. AP

Limping West up for classic; Sophomores rout Rookies

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—WHILE TIM HARDAWAY managed to talk himself out of the festivities, those selected for the 56th annual NBA All-Star Game were busy talking up the midseason classic on Friday.

"This is a spectacle. That's what it is," five-time all-star Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns said Friday.

Nash is one of four Western Conference players on the 12-man roster who are in Las Vegas but won't play Sunday due to injuries. Nash joins Utah's Carlos Boozer, Denver's Allen Iverson and Houston's Yao Ming on the sidelines with injuries.

With so many established stars in the infirmary it has created opportunities for players like Josh Howard, Carmelo Anthony and Mehmet Okur in the West and Dwight Howard and Caron Butler in the East to make their all-star game debuts.

Hardaway, who played in five all-star games in the 1990s, was banished from this year's lavish affair because of anti-gay remarks made to a Miami radio station.

The league had scheduled several appearances here this week for former NBA guard Hardaway before the remarks came out.

Shaquille O'Neal couldn't be more pleased to be playing in his 14th career all-star game. The three-time NBA Finals MVP said he was excited to be voted in this year as a starter.

"It is fun to mingle with the guys," O'Neal said on Friday. "There are a lot of superstars here."

This is the first time as a host for Las Vegas as the league has never played its showcase event in a city without an NBA team.

Dunking

Detroit guard Chauncey Billups doesn't see himself dunking over the game's giants but rather feathering passes to those who like to hear the roar of the crowd.

"If I get the opportunity I will take it but I am not one of those flashy players that dunks it. So I am going to try to give the ball to the show people," said Billups, who is making his second appearance. "I will make sure I give those guys opportunities to show what they can do."

Nash said there would be no bragging rights regardless of who wins Sunday's game at the Thomas and Mack Centre Arena.

"Winning and losing is not the primary thing," Nash said. "No one really cares about the score although at some point it will get competitive though."

Utah Jazz centre Okur is the first Turkish player selected to the play in the all-star game.

Okur was named along with Seattle's Ray Allen as a replacement for Iverson and Nash.

Phoenix's Mike D'Antoni is the head coach of the West while Washington's Eddie Jordan will guide the East.

Last year the East won 122-120 as guard LeBron James became the youngest to win the all-star game MVP by scoring 29 points and six rebounds.

James joins O'Neal as a starter on the East along with guard Dwyane Wade, Toronto forward Chris Bosh and Washington's Gilbert Arenas.

The East will be going for their third straight win and have a 35-19 overall lead since the first all-star game in 1951.

215 countries

The game will be broadcast in 215 countries in 43 languages.

There are nine international all-stars scheduled to participate in the weekend festivities: Yao (China), Andrew Bogut (Australia), Nash (Canada), Pops Mensah-Bonsu (England), Tony Parker (France), Andre Bargnani (Italy), Jorge Garbajosa (Spain), Tim Duncan (US Virgin islands), Dirk Nowitzki (Germany).

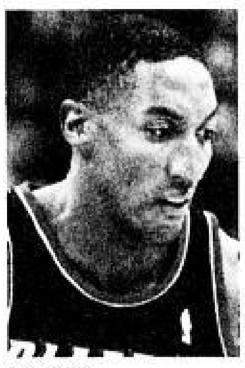
In Friday's Rookie Challenge game, New York Knicks power forward David Lee scored 30 points on 14-of-14 shooting and grabbed 11 rebounds as the Sophomores hammered the Rookies 155-114 on Friday at the Thomas and Mack Center Arena.

The Sophomores led by 31 points late in the first half, setting records for points, field-goal percentage (.747) and victory margin.

AFP

Gambling, sex talks outscore basketball

LAS VEGAS—THERE WAS ALL the usual Las Vegas talk Friday about gambling and sex.



PIPPEN

As far as the basketball, the best of that came from Scottie Pippen, who let it be known he's looking for a job in the NBA — as a player.

It was a strange start to the most unusual All-Star weekend in NBA history, where the best kind of veteran knowledge was how to handle one of the many temptations this gambling mecca has to offer.

"I just know don't hit on 17," Lakers star Kobe Bryant said.

Some locals are calling Sunday's All-Star game the biggest event ever to hit Las Vegas, and the players realize they are only a small part of that.

"I think this weekend is bringing the excitement back and Las Vegas is the reason," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said.

The casinos were packed, traffic on the Strip slowed and brokers were asking thousands of dollars in anticipation of the first All-Star game held outside an NBA city.

"I think it's a good match," Bryant said. "Basketball is the greatest show in the world. Everybody loves watching, and what better place to have a great show than Las Vegas?"

Still, the NBA still couldn't escape all its problems. The first half of a season that began with the controversial switch to the new ball ended with the anti-gay remarks by former player Tim Hardaway, who was here representing the league in various functions.

But the league sent Hardaway home after he said he hated gay people, a week after John Amaechi became the first former NBA player to say he was gay.

Gavin Maloof, whose family owns the Sacramento Kings, said he wouldn't allow a player on his team who shared Hardaway's views.

"What he said was wrong," Maloof said. "I'm sure he's apologized but the damage has been done and he never should have said it."

AP

Roddick faces Murray in semis

SAN JOSE—TOP SEED ANDY RODDICK will meet defending champion Andy Murray in the semi-finals of the San Jose Open for the second successive year after both came through tough three-set battles on Friday.

Roddick, the champion in 2004 and 2005, battled past fellow American Vince Spadea 6-3, 6-7, 6-1, while third seed Murray edged out South Korea's Lee Hyung-taik 4-6, 6-3, 7-6.

German sixth seed Benjamin Becker, who upset Marat Safin 6-4 6-3, will take on Ivo Karlovic in the other semi-final after the unseeded Croat overpowered American Mardy Fish 7-6, 6-4.

Roddick, who hit 19 aces, needed exactly two hours to get past eighth seed Spadea and reach the last four for the fifth time in six years.

Despite not being at his best, Roddick looked on course for a comfortable win when he led by a set and 4-3 with a break before Spadea hit back.

The 32-year-old, the oldest player in the draw, broke back and then snatched the tiebreak 7-5 to force the match into a third set.

But a loss of concentration at the start of the set allowed Roddick to regain the upper hand and as Spadea tired, the top seed eased to victory.

Murray looked in trouble when he dropped the first set to world number 54 Lee but upped his level to win the second set thanks to an early break.

The Scot broke in the 11th game of the decider and had a match point but was broken as Lee forced a tiebreak, before Murray snatched it 7-4 to claim his place in the semifinals.

Sixth seed Becker took advantage of a listless performance from Russian former world number one Safin, breaking once in each set to reach his third career ATP Tour semi-final.

"I think I was a little too slow today," Safin said.

"Maybe I had a bit of a problem with the timing because I played all my matches in the evening. Maybe it was a bit too early for me. I couldn't get into the match quickly enough." Safin, the world number 24, won a five-set battle with Becker at the Australian Open last month, but made a stack of unforced errors in their latest meeting and could not even force a break point.

Karlovic followed up his victory over American second seed James Blake with a stunning exhibition of serving against Fish, the world number 25.

The Croat blasted 17 aces and dropped only 10 points on serve to leave Fish, a quarterfinalist at the Australian Open, chasing shadows.

Reuters

ANDY Roddick returns to Vince Spadea during the quarterfinals of the SAP Tennis Open in San Jose, Calif., Friday. AP

CLIJSTERS: Easy victory. REUTERS

Clijsters, Mauresmo advance to Final Four

ANTWERP, BELGIUM—SECOND seed Kim Clijsters cruised into the semi-finals of the Diamond Games with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Serbia's Ana Ivanovic on Friday.

The world number four was joined in the last four by top seed Amelie Mauresmo, who beat Russia's Dinara Safina 6-1, 6-3 to move closer to claiming a diamond-studded racket worth one million euros ($1.31 million).

The prize is awarded for three title wins here in five years. The Frenchwoman scored back-to-back victories in 2005 and 2006.

Clijsters will play France's Tatiana Golovin who defeated Russia's Elena Likhovtseva 7-6, 7-5 in the day's last quarterfinal.

The tournament is the Belgian player's last on home soil as she plans to retire at the end of the season.

"I feel good and the crowd was terrific again. It's such a great feeling out there," Clijsters told reporters.

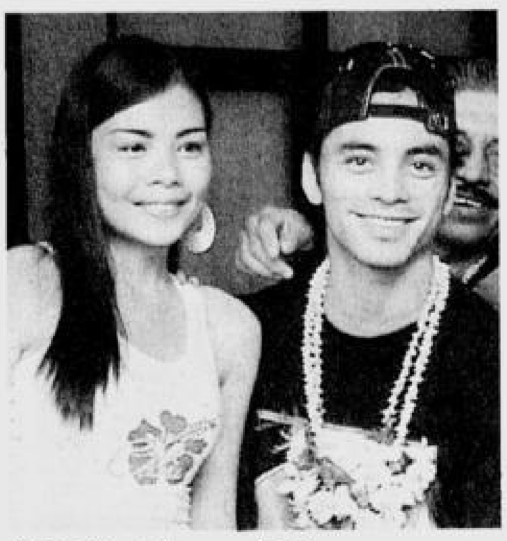
"But I am just focusing on each day and each game. Hopefully I can make it through to the final on Sunday."

Following a sluggish second round performance on Thursday, world number three Mauresmo stepped up a gear to outclass Safina and set up a meeting with another Russian, seventh seed Anna Chakvetadze.

"I am starting to play better," Mauresmo said. "You could see it was already going better than yesterday."

Chakvetadze, ranked 12th in the world, defeated third-seeded fellow Russian Nadia Petrova 6-3, 6-4.

Reuters



MONTIEL with a round girl.

Montiel here to defend title

CEBU—WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION (WBO) superfly king Fernando Montiel hit town yesterday on a Philippine Airlines flight PR 847, and arrived at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport with a solid team ready to prepare him for his title defense.

The Mexican world champion was accompanied by his father-trainer-manager Manuel Montiel, and his brothers Eduardo, Pedro and Manuel Jr.

Top Filipino promoter Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani was on hand to meet the group at the airport, along with a television crew and three lovely round girls who eagerly waited for Montiel's arrival.

The group proceeded to the Rajah Park Hotel, the official home of Team Montiel for the fight, and then went to the ALA Gym to hold their first workout here.

"Montiel looks in tremendous shape," said sportsman Antonio L. Aldeguer. "He immediately worked out at my gym after arriving."

Montiel will defend his world 115-lb crown against Cebuano speedster Z "The Dream" Gorres in the main event of the "Moment of Truth" card on Feb. 24 at the Cebu City Sports Complex.

Meanwhile, Colombian Feider Viloria and his trainer missed their flights from Baranquilla, and will instead take a flight from Bogota to Amsterdam today. The duo will arrive in Cebu on Feb. 20 at 1:20 p.m.

Viloria will battle the undefeated WBO superbantam No. 1 Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista in the co-feature of the huge "Moment of Truth" card.

Fight organizers will hold a special arrival press conference for Team Montiel today at the Cebu City Marriott Hotel along Ayala Business Park.

Both Gorres and Bautista looked menacing in their last sparring sessions yesterday. Gorres toyed with former national amateur standout Franklin Albia in a two-round session.

Bautista took on Reman Salim and Weng Haya for one round each and also looked ready. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Da Flash awards honor Pacquiao, other achievers

THE GREATEST FILIPINO BOXERS who brought fame and glory to the Philippines in 2006 will be honored in the seventh Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Boxing Awards and Banquet of Champions set March 25, marking the champ's 72nd birthday anniversary at the Elorde Sports Complex in Sucat, Parañaque.

Fifteen national champions and 21 international titlists, led by six-time awardee Manny Pacquiao, will receive various awards in the event being held in memory of the world's longest junior lightweight champion in history.

Elorde, one of two Filipino boxers to be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, had an uninterrupted reign of seven years, from 1960-67, to become the Philippines' greatest boxing champion of all time.

The clan of Da Flash, led by his wife Laura and children, will present the awards at the champ's home, the Elorde Sports Complex.

"This occasion will be special because it is the seventh year the awards are held in honor of Bai (Elorde)," said Laura Elorde.

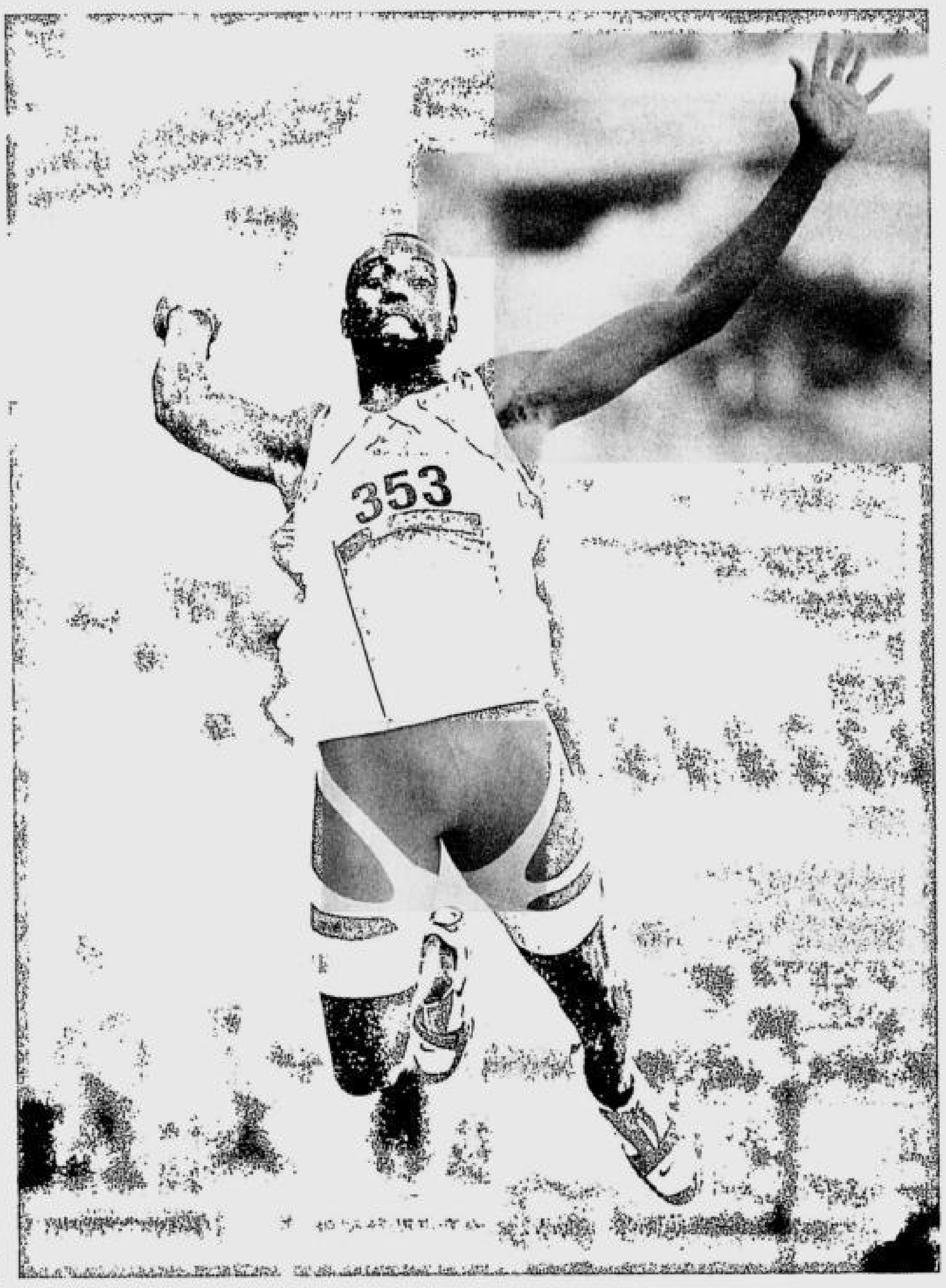
Elorde's son Johnny and wife Liza, who are overseeing the preparations for this event in cooperation with Pagcor, PCSO and Elorde Foundation, announced that a Boxing Week will be held culminating in the awards night on March 25.

The program starts with a fun run on March 18. Other activities include a boxing clinic and multi-card boxing event where the champ's grandson, who is also nicknamed Bai, will see action as a professional boxer.

The complete list of honorees:

National: Florante Condes (straweight), Sonny "Boy" Jaro (lightfly, Jojo Bardon (flyweight), Eric Barcelona, Eden Sonsona (superfly), Michael Domingo (bantam), Alex Escaner (superbantam), Jeffrey Onate, Vinvin Rufino (feather), Jimrex Jaca (superfeather), Fernando Montilla, Jr., Dexter Delada, Arnel Porras (lightweight), Bart Abapo (superfly), Dondon Sultan (welter).

International: Minimumweight: Gabriel Pumar (WBC int'l straweight), Donnie Nietes (WBO Aspac), Benjie Sorolla (WBO Intercontinental), Rodel Mayol (OPBF)Flyweight:Rexon Flores (WBO Aspac and WBO Intercontinental), Drian Francisco (WBO Aspac), Lito Sisnorio (WBC World Youth)Superfly: Z. Gorres (OPBF), Nonito Donaire (WBC NABF)Bantam: Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista (WBO Aspac), Malcolm Tunacao (OPBF) Superbantam: Bernabe Concepcion (WBC World Youth), Pederito Laurente (PABA Interim)Superfeather: Cesar Amonsot (WBO Aspac), Manny Pacquiao (WBC International), Bobby Pacquiao (WBC Americas), Jun Paderna (PABA) Lightweight: Dennis Laurente (PABA), Randy Suico (OPBF) Welterweight: Dondon Sultan (WBF World Welterweight), Rey Santilla (OPBF).



LONG JUMPER: Athens Olympics silver medalist John Moffitt of the United States soars in the men's long jump at the Sydney Telstra A Series athletics meet at Sydney Olympic park, in Australia, Saturday.
AP

Alabang hosts Adidas TR28 action today

THE THIRD OUTDOOR LEG OF THE ADIDAS Test Run 28 goes to the St.James Parking Lot in posh Ayala Alabang Village today.

Participants of the Test Run 28 are entitled to free consultation on strength and conditioning with the Dean of UP Human Kinetics Herc Callanta, nutrition with noted Nutritionist Luchi Callanta and foot scanning with Physiotherapist Kristine Warren.

Runners may also try the shoes available for Test Run 28 for 30 minutes within the area allocated for the run.

"We just finished UP and Greenhills," said Goody Custodio, sports marketing manager of Adidas Philippines. "We're very happy with the turn-out of participants. The free clinic for today is located at the St. James Parking lot and will be open to interested participants from 6 to 10 a.m."

For scheduling and more information regarding the Test Run 28, call Team Ventures at 4009745 or 5225953.

Inter-Collegiate shoot tomorrow

THE 1ST PCSO INTER-COLLEGIATE SHOOTing Competition begins tomorrow at the indoor air-conditioned shooting range of the Cantada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Taguig City. Top honors will be contested in air pistol in the men's and women's categories. The event is organized by Therese Cantada, national record holder in the air pistol event, in coordination with Joe Cantada Sports.

The event features 18 participants from Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines and De La Salle University. Cash prizes await the top three winners in each category of the event supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through general manager Rosario C. Uriarte and PR and Publicity Dept. Manager Manuel C. Garcia. The shooting event will be covered for television by Joe Cantada Sports and will be aired on the regular weekly television sports program Golf Power Plus on Tuesdays, starting 4 p.m. on RPN-9.

Active tourney on

THE FEBRUARY EDITION OF MCC 2050 BELOW ACtive chess gets underway at 11 a.m. today at the upper 2F of St. Francis Square behind SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The event is open to beginners, unrated and rated players whose active ratings are not over 2050. It will employ the six-round Swiss and time control of 25 minutes per player in selecting the top five winners who will receive cash prizes. Meanwhile the PSBA-Student Chess Club Nonmaster 2000 below will be held on Feb. 25 at the Riverbank Mall Food Court in Marikina City. For details, call 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

SPORTSWATCH

4th Bro. Benedict Golf Cup

THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 1982 HAS LINED UP VALUABLE prizes to be raffled off to participants in the 4th Br. Benedict Golf Cup on Feb. 27 at the North Course of the Canlubang Golf & Country Club. The prizes amounting to P300,000 includes hole-in-one rewards like an Acer laptop, two Nokia N-70 courtesy of Globe and P50,000 worth of jewelry from Sandy Olfato. Other hole-in-one prize includes Dunlop golf set with a golf bag and an imported massage chair worth P100, 000 from GNC. These prizes will be raffled off if no one makes a Hole-in-One. Tournament chair Ferdie Atendido said 29 inch televisions, P50,000 worth of 3M car products, gift certificates from hotels and resorts, golf items, appliances and computer hardwares are also up for grabs. The deadline for registration is on Feb. 19 at noon . Call 523-6158 or log on to dlsaa.com.

CKSC Dragons enter Tiong Lian finals

CHIANG KAI SHEK COLLEGE BREEZED THROUGH THE FINALS AFTER WHIPping Grace Christian HS, 94-62, in their semifinal match of the 31st Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball Association at CKSC gym in Manila. It was the seventh straight win by the Dragons of coach Sunny Co as they gun for their first crown in 12 years. They will meet Xavier School on Wednesday for the best-of-three championship series. "We're happy to be back in the finals against Xavier. I hope this year we'll emerge victorious," said Co. Game 1 is set at 6 pm. Brylle Jansted Chua led CKSC's balanced attack with 23 points while Jon Derrick Go dished out an all-around game with 10 points, 10 assists and 8 rebounds.

Rambulan prizes total P10.5 million

TOTAL PRIZES IN THE NATIONAL RAMBULAN 8- COCK DERBY, AN INTER-COCKpit event to be staged in 23 venues this summer, amounts to a staggering P10.5 million. To accommodate even the backyard breeders and medium-scale cockers, lead organizers Rodolfo Pineda and Butch Nunez, representing San Juan Coliseum, pegged the entry fee at P11,000. Nunez advised cockers and breeders of Metro Manila to field their entries at SJC on Mar. 1, 3 and 6 (first batch) and Mar. 19, 21 and 24 (second batch). Call 725 -5369 and 725 -6563 or 0917 -8041691 (Maricar). "As of yesterday, schedules in the Visayas, Mindanao, North and South Luzon are already fully booked. We expect no less than 800 entries nationwide," said Nunez.

PCAP cockfest slated Monday

THE THIRD LEG OF PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PCAP) 5-cock derby series unfolds on Monday at the Makati Coliseum. This event comes on the heels of the Makati International 8-cock derby recently which attracted 100 entries. PCAP members as well as guest participants must submit entries today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Weight limits are from 1.8 kg to 2.4 kg. Meanwhile, farm-to-farm screening and wingbanding will start on March 1 in connection with the 2007 stag derby season. Gamefowl breeders may contact 896-3545 and 895-6475 or 0906-2682911 for appointment (Joan or Stephanie).

Echiverri-Pichay rapid chess championship up March 10

THE 2007 ECHIVERRI-PICHAY NATIONAL Rapid Chess Team Championship will be held from March 10 to 11 at the 3rd floor, Bulwagang Katipunan, Caloocan Main in Caloocan City hall.

The tournament, a joint project of Caloocan City Mayor Enrico "Recom" Echiverri and National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) president and Surigao del Sur representative Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr., is open to all teams with an average standard rating of 2100 & below.

Only one master is allowed per team with four regular board and one alternate players. A total pot of P200,000 is at stake where the team champion gets P60,000 plus an elegant trophy. Individual champions from board 1 to 5 will take home P5,000 each.

For details, contact NCFP 536-8507, NCFP tournament chair Willie Abalos at (0920) 487-1453 or Caloocan Sports head Dindo Simpao at 2888-881 local 2241 or (0917) 826-6725 or visit NCFP headquarters at 2nd Floor PNB Building, RMSC, Adriatico St., Malate, Manila. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Kiamco trains hard for Reno

THREE TIME SOUTH EAST ASIAN GAMES gold medalist Warren Kiamco is now in rigid training to regain his rhythm in time for the 2007 Reno 8-ball Open.

The 36-year-old Kiamco, who is now a member of Bugsy's Promotion stable, is joining the prestigious event slated Feb. 28 to March 1 in Reno, Nevada.

"I had a poor performance last year because I got sick," said Kiamco, a native of Pasil, Cebu, in Filipino. "I was not able to participate in the Derby Classic last month that's why I'm not in good form. I need to train hard because of my long inactivity."

Last week, Kiamco, the 2005 All Kansai Japan Open winner, was playing billiards at Bugsy's pool when he bumped into manager/businessman Perry Mariano.

"He (Mariano) invited me to join his group and I didn't think twice because I really like to be in his stable," said Kiamco. "Boss Perry said that I should always keep my focus and practice at least two hours a day so that I'll be in good form when the tournament (Reno Open) comes."

Kiamco, who is now residing in Quezon City, promised to do well in the Reno Open, his first international tourney since being booted out of the qualifying round for last year's World Pool Championship in Manila.

Aside from Kiamco, other members of the Bugsy stable are reigning world titlist Ronnie Alcano, 2006 World Pool League ruler Dennis Orcollo, Doha Asian Games medalists Antonio Gabica and Jeffrey de Luna, Gandy Valle, Roberto Gomez, Jharome Peña, Carlo Biado, Elmer Kalaquian and Filipino-Japanese Mika Takayama. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

KIAMCO: SEA Games gold medalist

BEST OF THE BEST: (From left) Daniel Cleak, fifth place; Oliver Aquino, third place; Marlon Stockinger, winner; Alessandra Madrigal, second place; and Paolo Eslao, fourth place.

Stockinger draws first blood in Rotax

THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR experience.

Marlon Stockinger proved this once again when he conquered the first round of the Rotax Mojo Max Challenge Philippines held at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite on Feb. 11.

Stockinger, who has competed in two World Rotax Max Karting Championships, brought his experience to the fore to emerge on top of a tight battle in qualifying and the pre-final against local karting Princess Alessandra Madrigal, who settled for runner-up honors.

The 11-year-old Madrigal started from pole position and took the lead at the start of the final race. Stockinger, meanwhile, faced a tenacious challenge during the opening laps from Madrigal's Alessandra Racing teammate and two-time Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli.

Keeping his poise, Stockinger was able to pull out some breathing space from Guidicelli, enabling him to chase down and pass Madrigal for the lead on the third lap.

As they broke loose into the distance, Eslao and Oliver Aquino, who started fifth and sixth, respectively, diced for third place with Aquino eventually surging ahead at the flag.

Guidicelli dropped down the order as his tires suffered from the heat, while fellow Alessandra Racing driver Mark Bumgarner lost several spots after pitting in twice.

After the first round, Stockinger leads the standings with 88 points, followed by Madrigal with 86. Aquino and Eslao shared · third with 79, followed by Guidicelli (78), Daniel Cleak (76), Bumgarner (75), Stefano Marcelo and Tom Stockinger (70), Maico Angeles (67), Santiago Garcia (66), Allan Uy (65) and Bobby Domingo (63).

The next round of the Challenge is scheduled for Feb. 25 also at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Sunday SPORTS

Text us your feedback: Inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Finally, Hapee's Castro nails MVP trophy

By Jasmine W. Payo

FLEET-FOOTED GUARD JASON CASTRO didn't mind waiting.

As Hapee-PCU's top gunner, Castro consistently flashed his scoring flair and his ability to lead his team, but somehow always wound up short in the race for the top individual plum in the last two PBL conferences.

Yesterday, Castro finally copped the Most Valuable Player honors during the Achievement Awards in the PBL Silver Cup at The Arena in San Juan.

"My perseverance and hard work finally paid off," Castro said in Filipino.

In fact, the 5-foot-10 guard believes that all the time spent waiting pushed his game several notches higher.

A native of Guaugua, Pampanga, he credited Hapee-PCU coach Jun Noel and Junel Baculi, his former mentor in the Philippine Christian University.

"They were instrumental in helping me improve my game," he said.

The 20-year-old Castro ruled with 579.42 points ,the total score based on statistical points (67 percent) and the player and media votes (33 percent).

Castro edged Mail and More's burly center JR Quiñahan (569.57 points) and Toyota Otis' star point guard Marvin Cruz (507.77 points).

Castro, Quiñahan and Cruz were also named in the Mythical First Team along with Hapee-PCU shooter Larry Rodriguez and Toyota Otis' much-improved big man Dennis Daa.

Fantastic Freshman

Hapee-PCU's Mark Borboran, the rookie forward from the University of the East, bagged the Fantastic Freshman plum.

The 6-foot-4 Borboran also joined the Mythical Second Team with Toyota Otis' Patrick Cabahug, Harbour Centre's Chico Lanete and JC Intal and Henkel Sista's Kelvin Gregorio.

For consistently carrying the load for Toyota Otis, commissioner Chino Trinidad also bestowed the Heart of a Champion award to Cruz.

High-leaping Elmer Espiritu, who showcased his slam-dunking and shot-blocking skills in his debut with Mail and More, claimed the Defensive Stopper plum.

Cabahug, this conference's three-point champion, clinched the Quantum Leap award for his vast improvement this conference.

The Instant Impact citation went to flamboyant Bonbon Custodio, who shot a season-high 34 points to lead Magnolia in a triple-overtime win versus Kettle-Korn during the playoffs.

Intal and Mail and More's Nestor David received the Academic All-Star honors for typifying the ideal student-athlete.

David graduated from the University of the Philippines last year, while Intal will be receiving his Ateneo diploma this March.

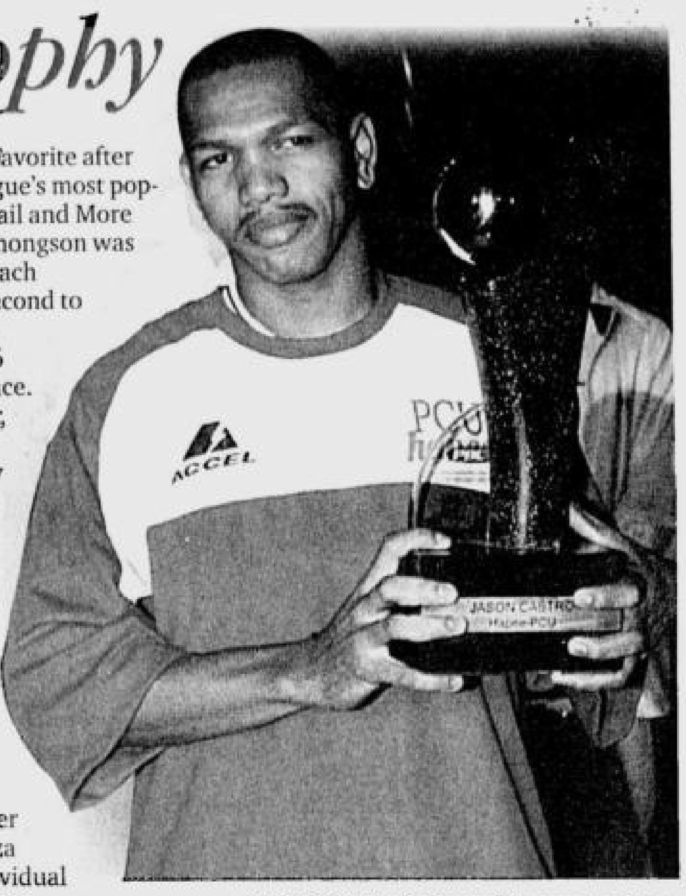
The league also honored Kettle Korn-UST's Jojo Duncil with the Social Work and Awareness award for his "Pencil ni Duncil" project, a charity activity that provided pencils and school supplies to public schools.

Intal won as Fan Favorite after emerging as the league's most popular player, while Mail and More mentor Lawrence Chongson was named Quotable Coach

Castro finished second to Rain or Shine's Jojo Tangkay in the 2006 Heroes Cup MVP. Race. A conference earlier, he ranked fourth in the Unity Cup derby won by Toyota Otis' Fil-Am Joe Devance

Even in last year's NCAA, Castro finished second to San Beda's rookie MVP Sam Ekwe.

With the win, Castro became the smallest MVP winner since Paolo Mendoza bagged the top individual award eight years ago.



CASTRO: Worth the wait AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Harbour Centre bags crown

Sweeps Hapee to claim Silver Cup

By Jasmine W. Payo

FINALS MVP Chito Lanete celebrates his team's triumph. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

TOUGHER IN EVERY ASPECT OF THE GAME, HARBOUR Centre swept Hapee-PCU yesterday to bag its second straight PBL championship.

The victory, though, came not without tension.

Harbour Centre needed to keep its composure in the final canto to hold off a late Hapee-PCU surge and seal an 86-73 victory to capture the PBL's Silver Cup yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

Backup swingman Jonathan Fernandez, who pumped in a series-high 23 points, proved to be the key figure this time, quelling Hapee's run with 10 points in the final period, including back-to-back treys that earned him the praise of his coach—and a bonus trophy at the end of the match.

"He played huge in this game," said Harbour Centre coach Jorge Gallent of Fernandez, a fresh recruit from the National University who was aptly awarded with the Pivotal Player trophy.

"We were confident," said Fernandez. "We beat them twice, so we thought we can beat them three straight times. We were focused and just followed coach's instructions."

Finals Most Valuable Player Chico Lanete again displayed his steady form to finish with 14 points, five assists and three rebounds.

"The boys worked so hard, they just didn't want a Game 4," said Gallent.

Harbour Centre's bench also came out strong with Ryan Araña leading the support crew with 14 markers and six boards.

The Port Masters overcame the stellar cast of Hapee-PCU led by Most Valuable Player Jason Castro and Fantastic Freshman awardee Mark Borboran to bag their second straight title.

Hapee-PCU could have made things more interesting but with standout Larry Rodriguez missing the game due to a sprained left ankle incurred in Game 2, the dreaded Teethmasters triumvirate was reduced to a two-pronged threat.

Borboran took the cudgels up for Rodriguez, orchestrating the Teeth Masters' fourth-quarter surge that the UE star capped with a triple that sliced the deficit to a point, 58-57, eight minutes left in the fourth period.

But that was when Fernandez essayed the fireman's role to the hilt, highlighting a nine-point cluster that gave the Portmasters a 69-61 cushion, which they stretched to 80-67, two minutes remaining.

The Port Masters jumped to a double-digit lead in the second period, 36-26, behind Fernandez and Lanete.

Fernandez picked up the pace in the first half with 11 points to lead the Port Masters to a 40-31 halftime lead.

The scores:

HARBOUR CENTRE 86—Fernandez 23, Lanete 14, Arana 12, Vergara 11, Ortiguerra 8, Intal 7, Gaco 7, Alonzo 4, Capati 0, Gamboa 0.

HAPEE-PCU 73—Castro 19, Borboran 18, Belga 8, Larong 7, Butel 6, Hugantan 4, Sanz 4, Rodriguez 3, Bucao 2, Moreno 2.

Quarters: 15-16, 40-31, 58-52, 86-73

Tagaytay ready to defend Asian title

TAGAYTAY CITY MAYOR AND NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) secretary general Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino said the four-man squad representing his city is confident of defending its title in the 15th Asian Cities Chess Team Championship Cup scheduled March 1-9 in Tehran, Iran.

Grandmasters Mark Paragua and Rogelio Antonio Jr. lead that crack squad as the Filipinos are hoping to duplicate their smashing title triumph in the last edition held in Tagayaty City last March 20-28, 2004.

The other two members of the Tagaytay team are International Masters Oliver Dimakiling and Wesley So.

"We're confident about our chances in the Asian Cities," said Abalos. "The players are preparing long and hard in our bid to retain the title."

NCFP director Wilfredo Abalos will head the delegation to the tournament.

Abalos said the presence of Paragua and Antonio will provide Tagaytay a potent 1-2 punch in the tough, nine-round team tournament.

Paragua is currently the country's highest-ranked player with an ELO of 2573 while Antonio is second with 2551.

Dimakiling, on the other hand, is ranked seventh with ELO of 2481. So is No. 12 with 2451.

This year, Tagaytay is hoping to duplicate the achievement of the Kazakhstan City of Pavlodar which bagged the title for two consecutive editions in 2000 and 2002.

Top GMs joining rich Philippine Open

WITH THE COUNTRY'S TOP THREE GRANDmasters participating, the 2007 Philippine International Open Chess Championship, slated Apr. 10 to 20, is guaranteed to be a sure-fire hit.

Already drawing the spotlight for its $40,000 purse, the event further grew in stature when tournament arbiter and NCFP director Willie Abalos confirmed the participation of GMs Mark Paragua, Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio.

The three are expected to face stiff competition from the other top-ranked players of a sport that has been hit by game-rigging scandals the past month.

The event is the second international tournament the NCFP will be hosting under the leadership of its president Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr.

NCFP secretary-general Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino Jr. will oversee the tournament in the hopes of matching the success of the 1st PGMA Cup last November.

The other notable wood pushers who have also signified their intention to play are RP six-time executive champion dentist Jenny Mayor, IMs Jayson Gonzales, Ronald Bancod and Barlo Nadera, FMs Adrian Ros Pacis, Roderick Nava, Rolando Nolte and Emmanuel Senador.

The nine-round Swiss system tournament offers a $5,000 prize for the champion. The runner-up and third placer will receive $ 4,000 and $3,500.

Cash prizes will also be given to the fourth placer, US $3,000; fifth placer, US $2,500; sixth placer US$2,000, seventh placer US $1,800; eighth lacer, US$ 1,600; ninth placer, US$1,5000; and 10 th placer, US $1,400.

Also getting cash prizes are the 11th to 20th placers, as well as the top three Filipinos, top three women and top three juniors.

The opening ceremonies and the first round will be held on Apr. 11 starting 3 p.m.

The second round is scheduled on April 12.

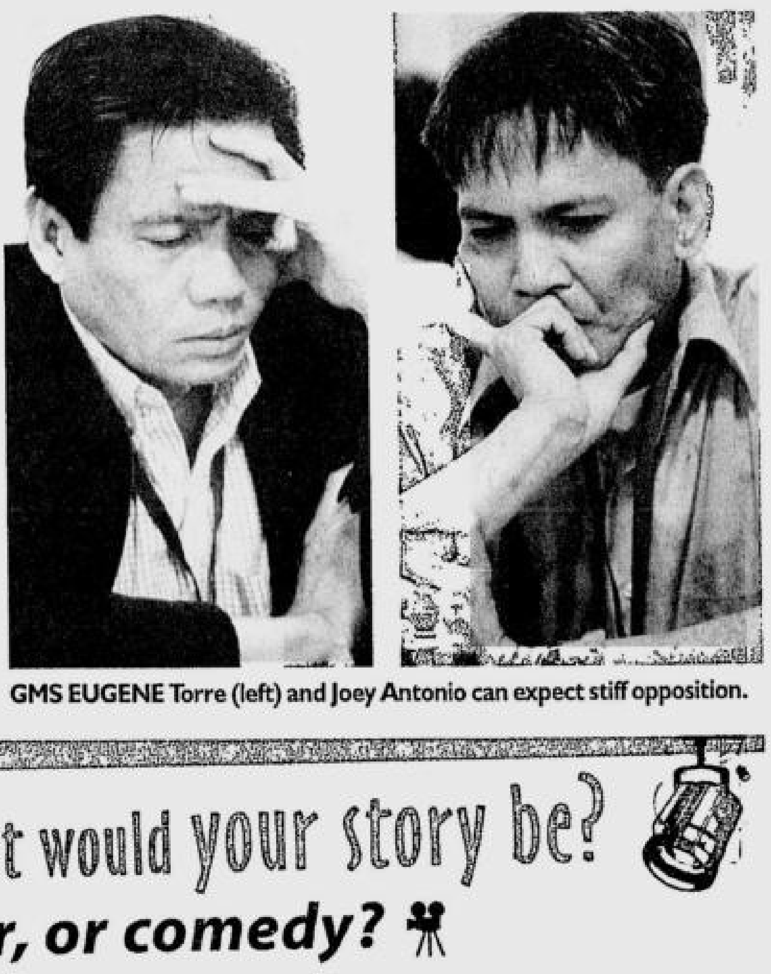
Toti Abundo will serve as the tournament director.

A side event, the Philippine International Chess Challenge', will also be held simultaneously for players with a rating 2200 and below.

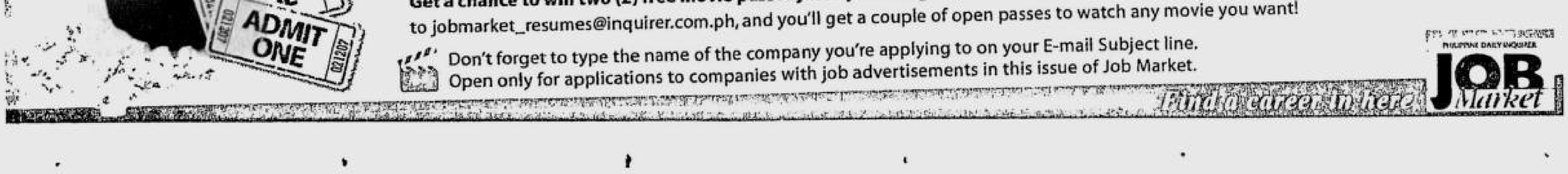
Interested players are requested to register with the organizing committee not later than March 31 or email NCFPsecretariat@yahoo.com or ant_ncfpsecgen@yahoo.com.ph

Registration is free for players rated 2500 and above.

The rest of those interested will have to cough up a registration fee dependent on their Fide rating in January. Marlon Bernardino, contributor



GMS EUGENE Torre (left) and Joey Antonio can expect stiff opposition.


If looking for a job were a movie, what would your story be?

Drama,action, horror, or comedy?

Get a chance to win two (2) free movie passes just by sending us your resume! Be one of the first 50 jobseekers to E-mail their resumes to jobmarket_resumes@inquirer.com.ph, and you'll get a couple of open passes to watch any movie you want!

Don't forget to type the name of the company you're applying to on your E-mail Subject line.
Open only for applications to companies with job advertisements in this issue of Job Market.

Find a career in here PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB Market

IN THIS ISSUE
■ This is the new style for What's Inside /L24
■ This is the new style for What's Inside /L24

Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Sunday BIZ
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

'I know what you bought last year'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Tina A. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY would have fared much better in 2006 had there been less typhoons wreaking havoc in the agriculture sector. But while growth, as determined by the gross domestic product, is expected to grow at the same levels in 2006 as in 2005, the economy last year showed signs of perking up as seen from a bullish stockmarket and growing strength of the peso against the US dollar.

Last year, the INQUIRER featured the best selling items of retailers. We're doing it again and what Filipinos bought with their hard-earned money is an interesting read.

A huge part of the purchase was paid for by the $12.6 billion that Filipinos working abroad sent to the Philippines. Translate this to pesos and that's a whopping P620 billion (at an average exchange rate of P49:$1) going largely into consumer spending.

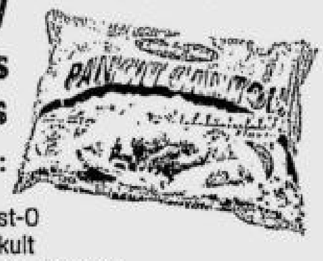
In the shopping cart

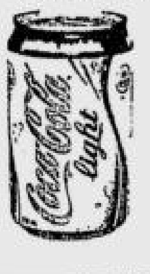
Let's start with the basic goods Filipinos bought in 2006:

Top 10 bestsellers in SM supermarkets

1. SM Bonus Chicken
2. Yakult 5's
3. Gainplus Eye-Q
4. SM Bonus refined white sugar
5. Promil Kid
6. Magnolia Fresh Chilled Chicken
7. Purefoods TJ Hotdog
8. Milo
9. Progress Gold
10. Gardenia White Bread

Shopwise's bestsellers



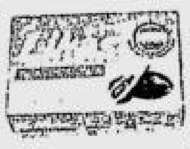


Food:

1. Zest-O
2. Yakult
3. Nestle Chuckie
4. Lucky Me
5. Coke Light

Nonfood:

1. Tide Bar
2. Creamsilk
3. Likas
4. Surf 2
5. Safeguard



Shopwise marketing consultant Frances J. Yu says the nonfood bestsellers are "all health and beauty products as Filipinos are very concerned with hygiene and beauty. Even in times of economic difficulties taking care of oneself is a priority for Filipinos."

For food items, the top five sellers are: Zesto, Yakult, Chuckie, Lucky Me and Coke Light.

"These tend to be easy, convenient types of food, snacks and in-between meals. Filipinos love junk food, love to snack," says Yu.

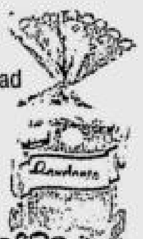
As to why the top sellers are liquids, she surmises that "maybe we tend to drink our calories."

Robinsons Supermarket bestsellers

1. Lucky Me pancit canton
2. Lucky Me mami noodles
3. Voice rich choco combo sandwich
4. Zesto orange juice (200 ml)
5. Marlboro red soft pack
6. Maggi magic sarap seasoning (8g)
7. C2 green tea apple 355ml
8. Yakult cultured milk
9. Lemon square cheese cupcake
10. Nescafe classic refill (25g)

Gardenia's bestsellers

Bread sales last year did not grow much over sales of 2005. Filipinos are still consuming more bread than ten years ago. The biggest maker is Gardenia and it's bestsellers were :



1. Classic White Bread
2. High Fiber Wheat Bread
3. California Raisin Loaf
4. Pandesal
5. Chocolate Chips Loaf

From the electronics and appliance shops

Commenting on bestsellers last year, Abenson's Winston Lim says "we see the 32" LCD replacing many of the larger size (29" or 34") CRT (cathode ray tube) TVs. Two brands are noticeably the leader in this category—Sony and Samsung. LCDs have seen a big growth since middle of last year."

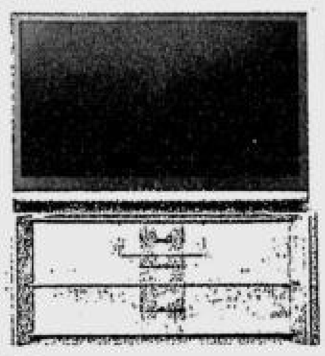
"Flat and slim TVs are the choice for smaller houses as they are affordable but slimmer in size than the old CRT TVs. They are space saving and just as clear. Brands such as Samsung and LG have launched these," says Lim. "Conventional CRT TVs are being replaced by Flat TVs due to more affordability. All the brands are moving well—Sony, Sharp, Samsung, LG, JVC and Panasonic."

DVD sales have been on the rise "since most branded are just as affordable as unbranded units. DVDs have gone down in price to P2,500. Philips, LG and Sony have items near this price point."

Digital camera sales continue to rise because of Filipinos' move to replace their old cameras with digital ones.

"The sing-along craze is stronger than ever with locals and OFWs alike," says Lim.

I KNOW/B2



Abenson bestsellers (audio and video)

1. Sony LCD TVs
2. Samsung LCD TVs
3. Flat and slim TVs
4. Flat TVs
5. Branded DVD
6. Sony digital camera
7. Canon digital camera
8. Home Theater
9. Magic Sing
10. Mini components

Top selling appliances

(According to Eric Lim, GM for Business Development of Automatic Center and Blims Furniture)

1. LCD TVs
2. Plasma TVs
3. Micro Display Projection TVs
4. DVD Players
5. Home Theater Systems / Speaker Systems

This Year of the Pig,
bank on our continuing commitment
to provide unmatched customer service
and value-focused products

Kong Hi Fa Chai!
恭 喜 發 財

Fortune
CHINABANK Private Banking
Prosperity
CHINABANK Cash Management
Harmony
CHINABANK Online
Fulfillment
TAKE HOME
Chinabank HOMEPLUS
Assurance
CHINABANK On-time Remittance

A proud member of
BancNet
Non-Stop Banking Network

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
Deposits insured up to P250,000 per depositor

CHINABANK
www.chinabank.ph Since 1920
Your success is our business

I know what you bought last year

From page B1

Top Electronics/Gadgets

1. Digital Cameras
2. Cellphones
3. Ipod / MP3 / MP4 Players
4. Video Cameras
5. Portable DVD Players (Automatic Center)

White line bestsellers

(Abenson)
1. Refrigerators - Direct Cool
2. No-Frost Refrigerators (no need to clean ice)
3. Aircon 1 - 1.5 hp (ideal size for Filipino bedrooms)
4. Split type air conditioners
5. Fully automatic washing machines
6. Branded Electric Fan
7. Branded Rice cookers
8. Branded Flat irons
9. Cooking Ranges
10. Microwave

"For those upgrading their refs, no-frost refs are becoming a choice for convenience," says Winston Lim.

"On the rise in sales of split types," Lim says, "pricing has gone down and there are free installation being offered by most major brands. Starting to sell well due to upgrades and new houses."

"Renewed interest in cooking as a lifestyle and hobby" has prompted the sale of high-end cooking ranges like La Germania and Elba.

Favored brands for the microwave are LG and Whirlpool.

China Bank Celebrates Chinese New Year

The Year of the Fire Pig officially starts on February 18 opening new opportunities to increase wealth and good fortune in 2007. China Bank, through seven Fire Pig years, has maintained its dedication of being a catalyst in the creation of wealth for its clients. As a partner, China Bank stays committed to good customer service -- providing superior banking products and services and developing new ones that are responsive to its clients' needs.

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, China Bank carries on with its own tradition of giving fortune cookies to clients who visit any of the Bank's 148 branches nationwide on February 16. For the Bank's Binondo Business Center at Dasmariñas corner Juan Luna St., where China Bank's humble beginnings started, the celebration is livelier and more festive. Chinese rice cake popularly known as tikoy and tea will be served throughout the day, highlighted by Dragon Dance in the afternoon.

"At China Bank, we see to it that we celebrate important occasions with our clients even if through simple tokens. The fortune cookies symbolize our wish of a sweet start of the year to everyone," said SVP Samuel L. Chiong, Deputy Group Head of China Bank's Branch Banking Group. "Inspired by the Fire Pig's cheerful character, we will make sure that for this year, our smiles will be brighter and our service even better."

The 4705th year in the Chinese Lunar Calendar, the Fire Pig is said to be characterized with drama and sudden changes in events, but would be an excellent year for property, mining, high-tech. and health industries. Though the year might bring forth some unexpected occurrences, the Pig's inherent character of being the laughing Buddha of the Chinese Zodiac sign will inspire optimism, diffusing a "don't worry be happy" attitude.

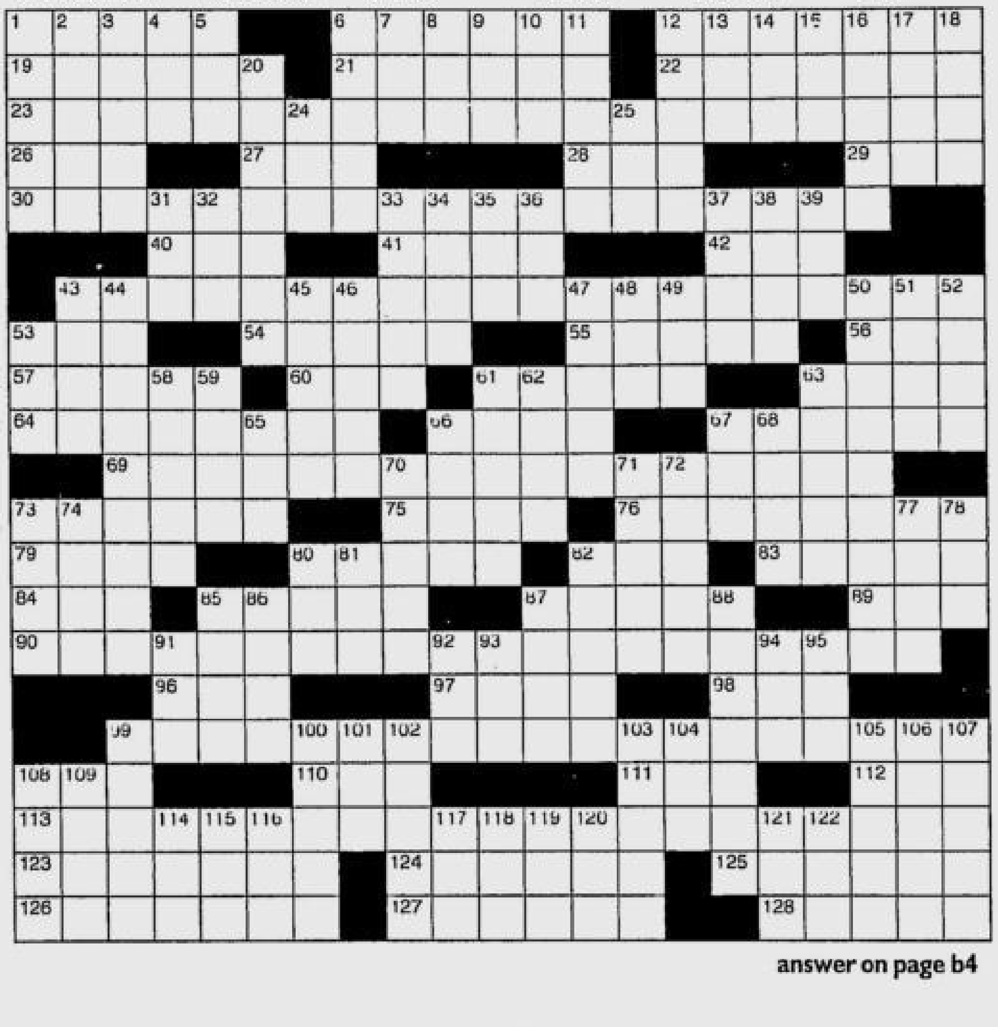
ADVT

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo PRESIDENTS

ACROSS
1 Actor Guttenberg
6 Division
12 Hurts
19 "C'est magnifique!"
21 Off the ship
22 On high
23 "Remington Steele" star as president?
26 Rat-a- —
27 Understand
28 Ending for form
29 See 34-Down
30 "Death of a Salesman" dramatist as president?
40 Testing site
41 Small batteries
42 Contend
43 "Mustang Sally" singer as president?
53 "Hagar the Horrible" cartoonist Browne
54 "Never — moment!"
55 His cube was a craze
56 Cutesy- —
57 Certain faith
60 Unwatered
61 Enticements
63 High card
64 Droopy-eared dogs
66 Big fuss
67 Small mimosa-family tree
69 "In Cold Blood" author as president?
73 More viscid
75 Advice column giant
76 Interweaved
79 Beggar's request
80 Forelimb bones
82 Sty squealer
83 Give the ax to
84 Dietary std.
85 SST part
87 Winemaker Ernest or Julio
89 Enjoy dinner
90 "Witness" star as president?
96 Man — mission
97 Ducklike bird
98 Huge time stretch
99 "Doctor My Eyes" singer as president?
108 EMT procedure
110 "Imagine that!"
111 Neptune's domain
112 Ad —
113 "Answer as a Man" novelist as president?
123 Tourist office offering
124 "I haven't a clue"
125 Ray of "Cop Land"
126 Beaming
127 Win over
128 Advent

DOWN
1 "Cent" starts with one
2 Synagogue scroll
3 Make joyful
4 Vincent — Gogh
5 Moose
6 Elves' boss
7 Supposed psychic gift
8 X, to Greeks
9 Foot part
10 Hockey hero Bobby
11 Happen periodically
12 Persian Gulf emirate
13 Mar. follower
14 Chinese Chairman
15 "Six-pack" muscles
16 One who's done for
17 Politico Bayh
18 Fedex, e.g.
20 High-school math
24 Suffix with cloth or cash
25 Elegant tree
31 — -mo (replay speed)
32 Itty-bitty bit
33 In a crude way
34 With 29-Across, very last part
35 Actor Holbrook
36 Abbr. on the "Enterprise"
37 Roman 57
38 Guitar riff
39 "—, a mouse!"
43 Thin streak
44 Sooner State native
45 In a curious way
46 German sausage
47 Hunter in the heavens
48 Huge fan
49 "Nova" airer
50 Seismic focal point
51 Singer Basil
52 Roman wrap
53 Belittle, to a rapper
58 Writer Nin
59 Muddy area
61 Fiascos
62 Call it —
63 Couric of CBS News
65 Be mistaken
66 Heavy brass
67 Well-suited
68 Monk's hood
70 Cattle farm
71 Covers the upper surface of
72 — -Saxon
73 Apparel
74 Ye — Tea Shoppe
77 "Bejabbers!"
78 "I" topper
80 Mono-
81 Architect Maya
82 Headaches
85 Dune stuff
86 Actor Epps
87 Understand, slangily
88 Part of a pool rack
91 Singer Secada
92 — mode
93 Big bird of legend
94 In lieu of
95 Beatle bride
99 Rainbow-shaped
100 Khufu's land
101 Soggy
102 Astrologer Dixon
103 Acting award
104 Teacher's gp.
105 Makes keen
106 Actor Nick
107 Dazzling display
108 Old Russian VIP
109 Chute opener?
114 "Bali —"
115 G.P.'s gp.
116 Dashed
117 Hither's opposite
118 Jar topper
119 Poem type
120 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
121 God, to Guido
122 Got the gold



answer on page b4

Top 10 items sold at SM Department stores

I. Accessories

1. Princess Collection Hair Accessories (Tiaras, Wands, Ribbons)
2. Beadwerx Jewelry
3. Winnie the Pooh & Superman Apparels and Novelties

II. Shoes

1. "Classic" Men's Shoes
2. Beachwalk Flip Flops
3. Parisian Wedges and Pumps Shoes
4. Messenger Bags and Bag Packs

III. Wears

1. Baleno Denim Pants
2. Character Sleepwear/Pajamas
3. Tunic Tops and Leggings

IV. Snack Exchange

1. Chocolates

V. Record Bar

1. Apo Hiking Revival

Shopwise non-grocery bestsellers

For women:
1. T-shirts in assorted funky prints
2. Assorted shirts in hip designs
3. Polo shirts with cap sleeves
4. Short sleeved shirt in striped knit fabric
5. Short sleeved crewneck shirt with assorted prints

For men:
1. Low cost short sleeves round neck printed T-shirts
2. Short sleeves round neck printed t-shirts
3. Denim shorts
4. Athletic shorts
5. Naughty print T-shirts

Top 5 accessories
1. Carruso Hanky
2. Chinese Bamboo Fan
3. Super Mini Nylon Umbrella
4. Scongee
5. Hair Set 3 (Clip, Clamp, and Ponytail)

What the rich bought

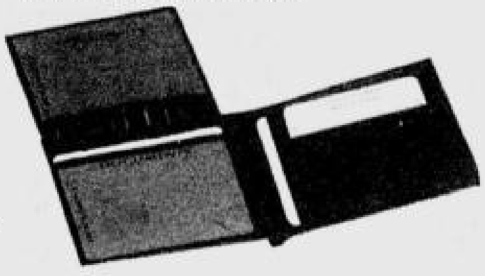
Known for it's high end brands, Rustan's shares its bestselling items last year:

- Toys that include board games, electronic toys, lipstick/stationery sets, etc. (more than 100,000 pieces)
- Infant needs items: infant carrier, infants wear, strollers, etc. (about 45,000 pieces) Aerosoles shoes (average price P2,950, about 25,000 pairs)
- Jam RTW children's clothes (about 20,000 pieces)
- Small leather goods: wallets, money clips, etc. (ave. price P1,250 to 2,000, about 17,000 pieces)
- Fashion accessories (about 15,000 pieces) Wishing bracelets at P595 (sold 2,000 pieces in 1 month)
- XOXO handbags at (average price P1,950) (about 4,500 pieces)
- Culte Femme by Hindy Tantoco RTW (about 4,000 pieces)
- Mavi Jeans (PHP4,950) (about 1,500 pieces)
- Crocs Brach (P1,750,about 1,500 pieces)
- U Swim Tankini's (average price, P1,650, 2,000 to 3,000 pieces)
- Wahini Tankini's (P3,950) (about 800 pieces)
- Vivienne Tam tops and dresses (P9,500 to 15,500) (about 650 pieces)
- Juicy Couture bags (P10,500) and accessories (P2,850) (about 2,000 pieces)
- Sinequanone tops and dresses (P3,250 to P4,650) (about 5,000 pieces)
- Custo Barcelona tops (P3,720 to P5,950) (about 1,500 to 2,000 pieces)
- Men's shirts from Salt (P1,450) & Black Label (P4,350) (about 3,000 pieces)

Wishing Bracelets™
Wishing Bracelets™

Luxury bestsellers

- Swimwear (P5,000 to P6,000) (about 3,000 to 3,500 pieces)
- Tumi luggages & travel bags (P22,000 to P35,000) (about 500 pieces)
- Cartier Santos watch (P100,000 to P233,000) (about 25 pieces)
- Tiffany Sterling Silver heart tag bracelet (P13,000) (about 100 pieces)
- Montblanc pens (P17,350 to P38,670) (about 2,000 pieces)
- Chopard Mille Miglia watch (P220,000 to P758,000) (about 10 pieces)
- Tamara Comolli Mikado Coral Set (P1,000,000) (introduced in November 2006, one piece was sold)
- Vacheron Constantin Patrimony watch (P789,500) (about 3 pieces)



What firms gave away

What did companies prefer to give to clients last year. We asked CorporateGiveaways.com, a promotional product distributor that sells to the country's top 1,000 corporations, via the Internet.

For 2006, the top five most saleable categories are (1) wearables, (2) glasswares, mugs & barwares, (3) bags, (4) business & desktop Items, and (5) writing instruments.

For the wearables category, clients spent most on jackets and polo shirts. But in terms of total units sold, T-shirts top this category. In the case of glasswares, mugs, & barwares category, ceramic mugs and stainless mugs are consistently being sought after. It is worthy to note, though, that there were companies that allocated a big share of their campaign expenditure on 2006 using matches and tea stirrers as promotional tools.

For the bags category, the tote bags were most in demand. This was followed by backpacks and convention bags. For the business & desktop item category, the standout is the diaries and planners. Notebooks, cubed paper & memo pads, as well as crayons and rulers almost share the same saleability.

Plastic ballpoint pens dominate the writing instruments category. The ballpens with calendar as well as pens with lace are next in line.

Rank product category
1. Wearables
2. Glasswares, mugs and barwares
3. Bags
4. Business and desktop items
5. Writing instruments
6. Automotive accessories
7. Keychains, tags and straps
8. Golf accessories
9. Sports and games
10. Signs and banners
11. Buttons, stickers and magnets
12. Luggage and travel
13. Food & drinks
14. Toiletries
15. Clocks & watches
16. Caps and hats
17. Computer accessories
18. Acrylic items
19. Recognition and awards
20. Services only
21. Calendars

Hardware bestsellers

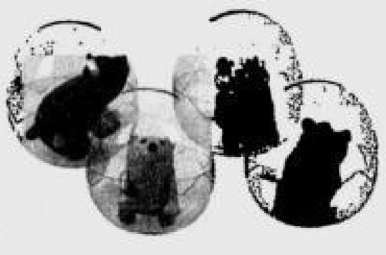
Ace Hardware

1. L. Master Mobile Clothes rack single
2. Omni extension cord set 4M WEE-003
3. Powermate generator PM3000 portable
4. Cool air industrial stand fan 18"
5. Omni extension cord set 4-gang WER-103
6. Philips Essential 18W 12'S/CS
7. L. Master Mobile clothes rack double
8. Philips Essential Genie 11W DL E27 12'S/CS
9. SCIB/SCIP Chamois canister and refill pk
10. Omni universal adapter WUA-002

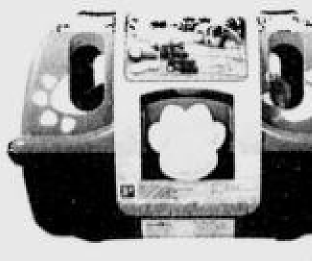
For kids only (best selling toys)

Toy Kingdom
1. Winnie the Pooh commemorative plush
2. Nintendo Wii (game console)
3. Playstation 3 (game console)
4. Barbie 12 dancing princess dolls
5. Power Rangers space patrol delta action figures
6. Silverlit X-twin radio control airplane
7. Bratz forever diamondz dolls
8. Dora the explorer twist car
9. Fisher Price Nick Jr. the backyarigans talking dolls
10. Lego Bionicle Exoforce

EZ-Freeze
EZ-Freeze



Toys 'R' Us
1. Hotwheels Diecast Car
2. EZ Freeze Sports Bottle *
3. Pingpong Ball Gun (with 5 balls) *
4. Bungi Sports Watch *
5. Mickey Character Pen
6. Wind-up toys *
7. Gumball Bank *
8. Fastlane Cars *
9. Fun Years Drum Set *
10. Barbie/Darby Vet Kit



Shopwise toy section

1 Hot wheels basic car
2 Virtual pet stuff toys
3 451311 Chicco rainbow hourglass
4 Chicco rainbow remote control
5 Chicco penguin glug glug

The vehicles you bought

1. Innova Toyota (10,767 units sold)
2. Vios Toyota 9,406
3. Fortuner Toyota 7,468
4. Civic Honda 5,934
5. Adventure Mitsubishi 5,367
6. Crosswind Isuzu 4,718
7. City Honda 4,179
8. Altis Toyota 3,631
9. L300 FB Mitsubishi 2,665
10. Hilux Toyota 2,596

Sweet tooth's favorites

From Goldilocks

Top selling products-Bakeshop

1. Polvoron
2. Choco chiffon cake
3. Fruit cakes
4. Mocha roll
5. Mocha chiffon cake
6. Choco roll
7. Ensaymada
8. Mamon fluffy
9. Marble chiffon cake
10. Triple delight cake
11. Mochanut roll
12. Egg pie
13. Black forest

Top selling products-Foodshop

1. Fresh lumpia
2. Dinuguan
3. Palabok
4. Sago with gulaman
5. Pancit malabon
6. Laing
7. Pork BBQ
8. Bistik Tagalog
9. Rellenong bangus
10. Beef caldereta

Fila's best sellers

1. Fila GX
2, Fila Marathon
3. Urban Strapped
4. Urban X
5. Fila Offense
6. F Classic 2
7. BDT-PRO 4
8. Montello
9. Everest Trail Runner
10. VB Classic

Restoring respect . . .

From page B4

sentment within an organization.

The incoming leader must have the courage to clean the slate and offer a new beginning. Finger-pointing over past failures or the bitterness that comes from a leader's betrayal has the potential to shipwreck a company. The incoming leader must be a catalyst for healing by erasing the lingering negativity of a prior leader's meltdown.

With the unraveling of President Nixon's dubious activities in the Oval Office, a dark cloud hung over the country. The nation's premier leadership position had been tainted. With the impending trial of former President Nixon threatening to embroil the nation in a messy and prolonged media circus, President Ford made the tough decision to pardon Nixon of all wrongdoing. At the time, the pardon drew harsh criticism and cost President Ford his popularity. However, in retrospect, political analysts laud President Ford for bringing healing to the country by cleaning the slate and allowing the nation to move past a painful chapter in its history.

3. Coalition-building restores harmony

When a leader makes a mess of an organization and steps down, factions develop in the resulting leadership vacuum. Critics of the prior leader squabble with one another over the best way to move forward. Cliques form within the organization, and each lobbies to bring in a new leader who is sympathetic to their point of view.

Replacing Nixon put Gerald Ford directly in the heat of a contentious atmosphere. Thankfully, President Ford was renowned for his deftness in working with parties on both sides of the aisle. His open-mind and ability to put aside his ego would enable him to build the coalitions needed to get the country back on track. Former President Jimmy Carter, Ford's opponent in the Presidential election of 1976, commented on Gerald Ford's strength as a unifier, remembering how he, "frequently rose above politics by emphasizing the need for bipartisanship and seeking common ground on issues critical to our nation."

Summary

Cleansing the stains of an incompetent leader is never easy, but, as demonstrated by President Gerald Ford, the task can be done. By displaying strong character, cleaning the slate of past mistakes, and building coalitions, a leader can chart a fresh course into the future.

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, email maxwell @inspire.ph or call 813-2049/2732. God bless!

From cart . . .

From page B4

Arnie and Loida recall that they originally wanted a small space, more like a counter with a sitting area. But SM offered a good location at the Mall of Asia, so they decided to open a restaurant instead.

Loida admits that they initially had their fears, but the area had potentially good foot traffic, and they took the space. That's when they realized that they could offer even more and that the timing was right.

"In the past, restaurants had Asian, Malaysian, Singaporean and Thai concepts," says Loida. "What we offer here is a fusion of Indonesian and Filipino favorites."

Since it opened last May, business has been good for Martabak. "We already have regular patrons from nearby offices and regular mall customers," Arnie says proudly. "Members of the local Indonesia community also frequent the place."

He goes on to share his experiences as a first time restaurateur. "We experimented with different dishes," Arnie recalls. "We were very hands on finding out what customers wanted and the things we could improve on." The fact that they were promoting new dishes with new names made marketing more challenging, but in time, Arnie's previous entrepreneurial experience and Loida's expertise in merchandising and marketing saw them through the difficult times.

The couple look forward to "opening more branches to further promote our brand. We will also be serving more Indonesian dishes including chips, dried fruits and sweet condiments." They will be opening their second branch at the Block at the SM City North EDSA this February.

Martabak Café is located at the Arcade of the North Parking Building of the SM Mall of Asia.

Profit Makes the Difference!

Start your ICE business NOW!
PURIFIED ice
Manitowoc®
ICE MACHINES

✓ Saves Energy
✓ Warranty
  - 5 yrs. on evaporator and labor
  - 5 yrs. on compressor and 3 yrs. on labor
  - 3 yrs. on all major components
✓ Factory Trained Technicians
✓ Guaranteed Return of Investment in a year
✓ Guaranteed after sales service nationwide
✓ Guaranteed parts availability
✓ Guaranteed continuous training support for cleaning and operating

For Inquiries, please call or visit:

TECHNOLUX

MANILA HEAD OFFICE
2176 Technolux Bldg.
Primo Rivera St.
Bgy. La Paz, Makati City
Tel. No.: (02) 896-4941

CEBU OFFICE
Door # 9, Adolfo C. Fick Bldg.,
H. Cortes St., cor. Ayala Access Rd.
Mandaue City
Tel. No.: (032) 344-0417 to 18

DAVAO OFFICE
Door #8 Aala Bldg.
McArthur Highway,
Matina Davao City
Tel. No.: (082) 305-1016

www.technolux.net

Robinsons Bank
Peso Time Deposit

TERM	INTEREST RATES* per annum
1 year	5.0%
3 years	5.5%
5 years	6.0%

* Net of Documentary Stamp Taxes
* Gross of W/holding Taxes except for 5+1 yr term
* Monthly Interest Crediting for 5+1 yr term
* Subject to change w/out prior notice

For a LOW Minimum Deposit of ₱25,000

Loan Available for up to 90% of deposit and may also be used to secure a Robinsons Store Card.

Visit or call your nearest Robinsons Bank branch now! With 3 new branches to serve you in Marikina, Bonifacio Global City and Valenzuela.

For more information call Tel. No. 631-8888 or 1-800-10-631-8888 for toll free Provincial calls.

RobinsonsBank
A Savings Bank
Where Your Hard-earned Money Grows.

RobinsonsBank 24/7 ATM

A JG Summit Company

Member Megalink and PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor 250,000.00.

M-Class
E-Class
SLK-Class
B-Class
S-Class

Your journey to success and prosperity begins in a Mercedes-Benz.

Happy Chinese New Year & Kung Hei Fat Choi!

▸ As a symbol of success and prosperity, Mercedes-Benz truly stands out. Even more so now when you test-drive a Mercedes-Benz and celebrate this Lunar New Year with a bang. Come in for a test-drive today and be gifted with a special token from Mercedes-Benz. Rest assured, your journey to success and prosperity is infinitely more luxurious and enjoyable in a Mercedes-Benz.

Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz Greenhills - 1008 EDSA Greenhills, San Juan 1502, Metro Manila Tel: **(632) 7235808** Fax: (632) 7267741 Mobile: (63917) 8002798
Mercedes-Benz Global City - 32nd St. cor. Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, 1634, Metro Manila Tel: **(632) 8157777** Fax: (632) 8159153 Mobile: (63917) 8002836
Email:mercedesbenz@cats.com.ph Website: **www.mercedes-benz.com.ph**

When students run a mall

Lab for students to learn ins and outs of retail

One Big Flame
One Big Flame

FR. BIENVENIDO Nebres of the Ateneo gives a talk during the blessing rites of John Gokongwei School of Management Student Enterprise Center at the Ateneo de Manila University in Katipunan, QC.

AUGUST DELA CUZ

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

IMAGINE A MALL RUN BY students.

Believe it or not but such a mall exists, more decorously tagged, the "entrepreneurial laboratory."

The "laboratory" conveniently faces Ateneo de Manila's central carpark in Quezon City, and is easily accessible to students, faculty and staff working inside the campus.

As a "laboratory", it is a venue where undergraduate students of the John Gokongwei School of Management of the Ateneo de Manila (JGSOM) learn how to run a retail business by actually owning and managing one while they're still in school.

The first of its kind, the business lab, dubbed the JGSOM Student Enterprise Center (JSEC), was formally opened on Valentine's Day, with the blessing rites graced by tycoon John Gokongwei Jr., wife Elizabeth and daughter Robina Gokongwei-Pe.

In an article published at the Ateneo website last September, the business lab, then at its nascent stages, was seen setting the trend for school-based malls.

JSEC, as a mini-mall cum business lab, is a place where students can set up retail spaces that cater to the needs of the Ateneo college community of over 8,000 students, faculty and staff.

Outsiders are not allowed to occupy any spaces in the mall; only full-time student will be allowed to set up shop for one semester or up to a one year lease.

There are currently 12 establishments divided between 59 student-owners who hail from different courses—from as remote as biology, philosophy and European studies to the obvious suspects such as management and legal management.

These students even came up with catchy names for their stalls.

"The Big Box" offers school supplies. "BB King" is the home of freshly grilled barbeque meats. "Picky Eaters" is a burger haven. "Fruititontop" is simply put, fruits on bread. "One Big Flame" offers grilled viands while "Bodhi" brings vegetarian meals. "Chinky Chicken" offers complete rice meals with chicken toppings while "Health Switch" is a reliable source of healthy snack foods that include carabao milk yogurt and tofu-based products such as soy coffee and tofu fries. "Great Wraps" on the other hand is marketing itself as an international eating place with innovative ways to eat wraps. "Nanay's" meanwhile is quality home-style cooking, put up by a group of cousins who wanted to share their eating experiences from their grandmother's recipes. "PaBurrito" offers a fusion of cultures by offering Filipino dishes with a Mexican twist while "Matcha Green Tea" is a green tea café that capitalizes on "Matcha," a Japanese grown tea that puts an actual ground leaf in your drink to create a healthier drink.

Although JSEC is run by students, standards of food safety, quality and service are not compromised.

Student businesses must pay fair wages to employees and cover their own utilities costs. Although they are not required to pay rent, the JSEC is run on a full cost recovery basis so locators in the mall must cover their pro-rata expenses including security and janitorial services, repairs, maintenance and utility costs.

"Many years ago we had five wooden stalls beside the Rizal Library which our students used every second semester for their entrepreneurial projects. When construction for the MVP Center began, those five stalls had to be taken down. When we were discussing where to relocate the stalls, we thought, we can make this bigger and better! Eventually, we decided that we should build an actual mall that would support the entrepreneurial ventures of our students," said JGSOM Dean Rodolfo Ang said in the earlier article.

Ang explained that the mall caters to two key needs: the first is for a laboratory in which our students can practice their entrepreneurial skills, and the second is for additional livable spaces where the members of our community can hang out.

"Students need to have areas where they can just hang out. The Loyola Schools has grown the last few years, and there just aren't enough places for them anymore to relax with their friends. This mall is designed to be another living space where students can literally just hang out," Ang said.

He later told INQUIRER that the cost of putting up JSEC was over P8 million, sourced out of interest earnings from a P200 million donation made by Gokongwei to the school six years ago.

For student-owners like Cruz, the real-life gains far outweigh the costs of putting up a business at JSEC.

"It has been an opportunity for us to learn first hand the inglorious but essential work that goes on behind the scenes... Going to the *palengke* to buy meat for example, negotiating face-to-face with suppliers to get a good deal, *pakikisama* with employees, among others. These are the day-to-day realities that cannot be learned if you stay buried in books and cloistered within the four walls of the classroom. It has been humbling in my case because I realized how much I do not know. It is one thing to have a business plan and put it on paper. It's actually the easy part. The hard part is execution," Cruz said.

Cruz also said his biggest lesson as a budding entrepreneur is to earn the trust of his suppliers by being honest in his transactions, clear with terms and prompt with payments.

Heartened by the students' passion for entrepreneurship and showing his own passion to better causes related to education, Gokongwei announced separately during the blessing rites that the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation will spend half a million dollars a year to send 40 Filipino students, who are expected to be future leaders in the country, to China.

He said the Gokongwei Foundation will start the project in September.

"We want to know China's influence in the region and how she thinks," Gokongwei said.

Gokongwei marked his 80th birthday in August last year by donating an unprecedented P10.25 billion to education and other causes. Gokongwei had announced that he would donate his entire personal shareholdings in JG Summit Holdings—equivalent to 25 percent of the listed conglomerate, or about P10.25 billion—to charity.

In the last five years, the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation has released over P400 million to various schools, chiefly to De La Salle University, where Gokongwei acquired an MBA degree, and Ateneo de Manila University.

GRADUATING from snack foods to restaurant food

From cart to cafe

AFTER A SIX-YEAR STAY IN Indonesia, Arnie and Loida Magpayo decided to go into the food business when they returned to Manila.

The enterprising couple put up Matahari Indonesian Deli Carts at the SM Supermalls in 1998, giving new snacking options to Filipino shoppers.

Inspired by the success of their first foray in the food business, Arnie and Loida decided to take their food carts to the next level with the opening of Martabak Café at the SM Mall of Asia.

Located at the Arcade of the mall's north building, Martabak Café serves authentic Indonesian dishes in a cozy Balinese interior. Named after *martabak*, the traditional Indonesian pancake or *bibingka*, at the café serves this delicacy in cheese, chocolate, and mango, and cheese, chocolate, and banana flavors.

These go well with Indonesian coffee, which they say is "one of the best blends in the world."

"I go to Indonesia every now and then just to check what's new and make sure I have new things to offer to Pinoys," says Loida. "I buy my ingredients and stuff for the store thereto make it more authentic."

FROM/B3

Former insurgency hotbed now grows mushrooms

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

LUPAO, NUEVA ECIJA—A VILLAGE HERE, described by the military as a former hotbed of communist insurgency, is now bidding to become a model for entrepreneurship and other forms of development.

Through its Barangay Defense System Development Association (BDSDA), Barangay Parista here has started its mushroom production and marketing project.

This project will soon be followed by charcoal briquette making and contract farming for corn production.

The mushroom project, which features the production of *kabuteng pamaypay* (Pleurotus sajor-caju) in growing huts, was formally launched here on Tuesday.

"We hope that our development projects can bring about a turnaround for the social and economic development of the residents of our village," Roberto Gaid, president of the Parista BDSDA, says.

Parista is located a few kilometers from Barangay Namulandayan, where 17 civilians were killed after an encounter between Army soldiers and New People's Army rebels in the late 1980s.

Relatives of the victims called the event as the "massacre of innocent civilians."

Lending assistance to the village are the Nueva Ecija Small and Medium Economic Development Council (NESMEDC) and the Army's 71st Infantry Battalion.

The council counts as members the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and the Nueva Ecija Chamber of Commerce and Industry and civic organizations in the province.

THE GOAL is for development projects to bring about a turnaround for the social and economic development of the residents

The council has provided P50,000 as seed money for the mushroom production project.

Vicky Gaetos, who heads the council, says additional funds may be given for the expansion of the project if the members of the Parista BDSDA can successfully operate the project.

She says about 98 prospective mushroom growers were given training in production, marketing and handling of finances. "There are many entrepreneurial projects which have bright prospects for success. But what is important to us is your oneness in purpose and your commitment to sacrifice a little in order to attain success in any project that you select to pursue," Gaetos said during the launching program.

"In business, it is not enough to give the money for the start of a business. It will require many values that should be upheld," she says.

Lt. Col. Gregory Cayetano, commander of the Army's 71st Infantry Battalion, said it is not enough that a barangay is declared as "cleared and recovered" from insurgency.

"We always hear that the root cause of insurgency and the reason many residents sympathize with the rebels is poverty. If that is the case, let's join hands in driving away poverty," he says.

He says the success of Parista in these livelihood projects would be replicated in other barangays, which have been cleared of insurgency and have already established their own defense systems.

5.5% Guaranteed Tax-free Fixed Monthly Income
- Affordable at a minimum of PhP 50,000
- Secured 5-year placement, tax-free
- Accessible monthly income

* Quoted rate is on a per annum basis and subject to change without prior notice.

Get it now at any PSBank branch.

PSBank Prime TIME DEPOSIT

Text PSBANK PRIME <your name> <landline no.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000

Restoring respect to a leadership role

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

S	T	E	V	E	■	■	S	E	C	T	O	R	■	D	A	M	A	G	E	S
O	O	L	A	L	A	■	A	S	H	O	R	E	■	U	P	A	B	O	V	E
F	R	A	N	K	L	I	N	P	I	E	R	C	E	B	R	O	S	N	A	N
T	A	T	■	■	G	E	T	■	■	■	■	U	L	A	■	■	■	E	N	D
C	H	E	S	T	E	R	A	R	T	H	U	R	M	I	L	L	E	R	■	■
■	■	■	L	A	B	■	■	A	A	A	S	■	■	■	V	I	E	■	■	■
■	W	O	O	D	R	O	W	W	I	L	S	O	N	P	I	C	K	E	T	T
D	I	K	■	■	A	D	U	L	L	■	■	R	U	B	I	K	■	P	O	O
I	S	L	A	M	■	D	R	Y	■	B	A	I	T	S	■	■	K	I	N	G
S	P	A	N	I	E	L	S	■	T	O	D	O	■	■	A	C	A	C	I	A
■	■	H	A	R	R	Y	T	R	U	M	A	N	C	A	P	O	T	E	■	■
G	O	O	I	E	R	■	■	A	B	B	Y	■	E	N	T	W	I	N	E	D
A	L	M	S	■	■	U	L	N	A	S	■	P	I	G	■	L	E	T	G	O
R	D	A	■	S	O	N	I	C	■	■	G	A	L	L	O	■	■	E	A	T
B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N	H	A	R	R	I	S	O	N	F	O	R	D	■
■	■	■	O	N	A	■	■	■	L	O	O	N	■	■	E	O	N	■	■	■
■	■	A	N	D	R	E	W	J	A	C	K	S	O	N	B	R	O	W	N	E
C	P	R	■	■	■	G	E	E	■	■	■	■	S	E	A	■	■	H	O	C
Z	A	C	H	A	R	Y	T	A	Y	L	O	R	C	A	L	D	W	E	L	L
A	R	E	A	M	A	P	■	N	O	I	D	E	A	■	L	I	O	T	T	A
R	A	D	I	A	N	T	■	E	N	D	E	A	R	■	■	O	N	S	E	T

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

AS THE UNITED STATES mourned the passing of its 38th President, Gerald Ford, fond memories and kind words came like a flood from all who remembered him. Ford had arrived to the Oval Office after Richard Nixon's deceit and dishonesty had robbed the Presidency of its honor.

As President, Ford would face the daunting task of restoring respect to the White House. In doing so, he built a legacy as a healer, and left us with lessons on how to rebuild in the aftermath of a leadership crisis.

1. Character comes first

When a leader's moral failure forces him to resign, the biggest charge of the incoming leader is to restore the integrity of the position. In the wake of the scandal-wracked Nixon administration, the United States desperately needed a man of unquestioned character. Gerald Ford was precisely the man for the job. His unpretentious nature and civility were noted by political friends and foes alike. As a testament to his stalwart moral fiber, President Ford's approval rating quickly soared to over 70 percent upon taking office.

2. Cleaning the slate is necessary to move forward

Whether being forced out due to moral flaws or poor financial decision-making, a departing leader can leave hurt, pain, and re

RESTORING/B3

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
eedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inqui

BUSINESS leaders Wash SyCip and Socorro Ramos

GUILD of Jewelers Jay Camus and Mia Florencio

WOFS Phil. president Marites Allen and husband Nick

GUILD of Jewelers Mia Faustmann flanked by Consul Helen Ong and CCP president Nestor Jardin

JEWELRY patrons Evie Costa, Helen Ong, Mellie Ablaza and Ramon Orlina

THREE generations of jewelers. Juls Dizon and her family

Call me Madam Feng Shui

Enhance your wealth and happiness in the Year of the Fire Boar

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THE YEAR OF THE FIRE BOAR has finally arrived, bringing in auspicious energies of prosperity, good health and love. Thanks to World of Feng Shui Philippines owner **Marites Allen**, I have become an amateur geomancer, hopefully enhancing wealth and happiness among those relatives and friends eager enough to consult me.

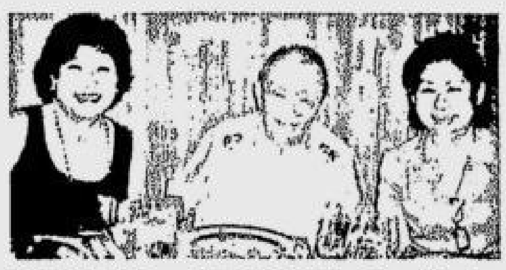
During the 2nd Feng Shui Extravaganza sponsored by the INQUIRER, engaging and informative WOFS CEO **Lillian Too** shared her annual charts of this Chinese New Year in the well-attended twin events billed "Getting Rich and Staying Safe in the Year of the Fire Boar 2007." The highly entertaining sessions were held at the Premier Cinema, SM Mall of Asia, and at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel.

Armed with her analysis of what the energies of the New Year have in store for individuals and industries, world-renowned geomancy expert Lillian dished out her much-awaited pointers to enable us to harness good fortune and protect ourselves from any harmful threats brought about by negative aura.

Focusing on individual animal signs, she says this will be a good year for those born in the years of the Sheep, Monkey, Dragon and Horse, and a challenging one for the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Snake, Dog, and Boar. Being a Rabbit, I guess I am on neutral ground but can still enjoy a great year ahead. She also went into detail about auspicious months for each sign and suggested different feng shui cures and enhancers to combat negativity.

The Fire Boar brings good prospects as well for those involved in metal industries (jewelry, computers, engineering, cars) and earth industries (real estate, insurance, mining, chemicals). On the other hand, it will be an average year for those in wood industries (media, agriculture, fashion, food, publishing, education) and a competitive year for water industries (travel, shipping,

CALL/ C4



WORLD of Feng Shui CEO Lillian Too, Wash SyCip and Tessie Sy-Coson

WOFS family Connie Leung, Stanley Ong and Kee Hua Chee

WOFS Extravaganza Marites Allen, Sea Princess, Wanjin and Lillian Too, Malaysian Ambassador Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi and Goh Meng Keng of Malaysia Airways

CHINESE celebration with friends and Margaret Gaisano-Ang and my god-couple Erwyn and Maribel Ong

YUCHENGCO Museum curator Jeannie Javelosa with Helen Yuchengco-Dee

FENG SHUI friends Mai-Mai Liechtenstein, Nena Tantoco, Lior Liechtenstein and Mark Higgins

Sun Group Plans
3 lines. 3 phones.
Unlimited calls and texts* All for ₱999/month

Great choices and deals for the family!

Your choice of handsets:

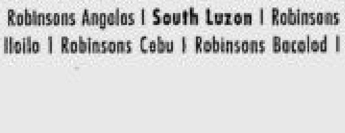
Motorola C261 Camera Phone
Nokia 2310 Color Display w/ FM Radio
LG KG220 Camera Phone
Philips S660 Camera & Video Phone

- Only one person needs to subscribe to get all the lines.**
- Shared Monthly Service Fee and free 750*** texts (to other networks).
- Enjoy non-stop calling and texting with 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited for only ₱333 per subscriber monthly.
- Choose any three from these handsets; Motorola C261, Nokia 2310, LG KG220, Philips S660

* For local Sun-to-Sun calls and texts only. ** 24-month holding period. *** When enrolled in Call & Text Unlimited.

Visit The Sun Shop and get a postpaid line now!
When applying for your postpaid line, bring a valid I.D. and your latest competitor bill.
If competitor bill is not available, bring Proof of Billing and Proof of Income.

Also available
Group Plan 699
3 Free Phones. 3 Lines.



Nokia 1112
Monochrome Display with Backlight, Speaking Alarm Clock, Polyphonic and MP3 Grade Ringtones, Integrated Handsfree Speaker
Monthly Service Fee: ₱699
Discounted Daylite Call & Text Unlimited*
(Only ₱233 per subscriber monthly)
Plus 300 FREE Texts!

The Sun Shops: Metro Manila | SM Mall of Asia | Burke Plaza, Binondo | Robinsons Galleria | SM North Edsa | SM Megamall | SM Manila | Robinsons Manila | Park Square One | Robinsons Metro East | SM Fairview | SM Centerpoint SM San Lazaro | SM Valenzuela | Greenhills | Shangri-la Plaza | Robinsons Cainta | Robinsons Place Pioneer | North Luzon | Robinsons Starmills | SM Marilao | SM Clark | SM Baguio | Robinsons Angeles | South Luzon | Robinsons Sta. Rosa Robinsons Imus | Robinsons Dasmariñas | Robinsons Lipa | SM Bacoor | SM Molino | SM Southmall | Filinvest Festival Mall | SM Bicutan | SM Lucena | Visayas | Robinsons Iloilo | Robinsons Cebu | Robinsons Bacolod | SM Cebu Ayala Center Cebu | Mindanao | SM Davao | Gaisano Davao | Robinsons Cagayan de Oro
Hotline: 395-8000 www.suncellular.com.ph.

SUN CELLULAR
Better network, better value.

Celebrate 365 days' worth of special moments with cakes that express you, honor that loved one or simply mark that affair so uniquely, so beautifully.

On March 2007, Red Ribbon Bakeshop celebrates its 28th year in the Philippines. It is a milestone that marks close to 3 decades of bringing joy to family and friends and making each occasion really special through its delicious, beautiful cakes.

With its acquisition in October 2005 by Jollibee Foods Corporation, Red Ribbon enters a new phase in its company history. "This is truly an exciting time for our company! We are very bullish about our growth over the next few years, beginning with our major relaunch this month," says Ma. Regina B. Navarrete, President of the Philippine and US operations.

From its first store in Timog, Quezon City in 1979, Red Ribbon has grown to 160 outlets all over the country and 19 stores in the US. It currently has 6 commissaries nationwide and 3 in the US.

A History of Quality, Great-Tasting Cakes and Pastries

The company will soon become the biggest and fastest-growing bakeshop in the Philippines. Its mission is to bring the joy of eating to everyone through its great-tasting food. Ramon Saño, R&D and Technical Services Director proudly states, "Our superior quality is our source of corporate pride. Our cakes, breads and pastries consistently win in product tests versus competition!"

Red Ribbon uses premium ingredients, such as real butter, high-quality cake flour, and its unique Red Ribbon cream. No wonder, Red Ribbon cakes have become a tradition, an integral part of every celebration – birthdays, christenings, anniversaries, and weddings.

An Exciting New Look

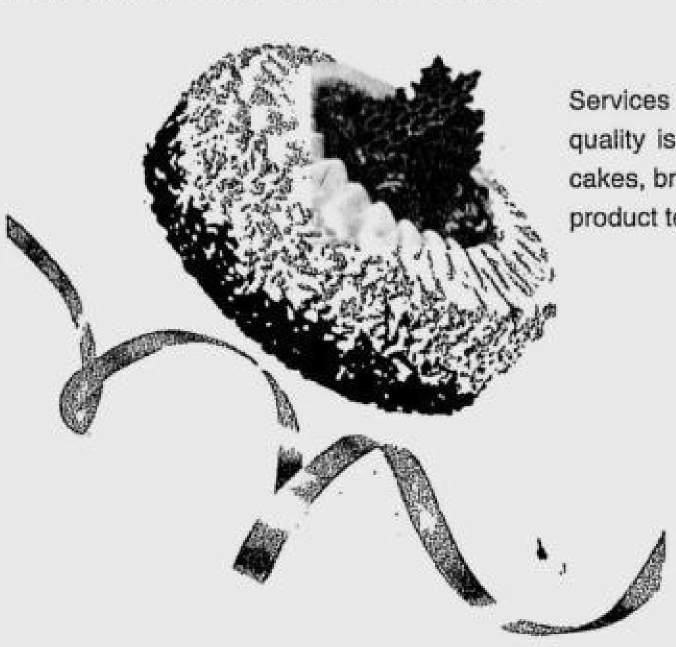
On this 28th anniversary, Red Ribbon relaunches itself with a new visual identity. "Our brand is taking on a more contemporary and dynamic look while retaining its brand charm… Red Ribbon will appeal to a broader segment of consumers while staying connected with our loyal customers. We're giving people more reasons to bond with and love our brand," says Jessica C. Abaya, Marketing Head.

The new logo leverages on the red ribbon, a strong icon of a special gift. The new logo is the visual key to the branded world, the full expression of which comes to life through its applications from innovative cake boxes, attractive store signages, to spiffy crew uniforms and impactful communication materials.

Putting Even More Heart into Customer Service

Red Ribbon also relaunches with a higher level of customer service. "We want to delight the customer in every encounter." says Jose Arnold Alvero, Luzon Operations Head. "Red Ribbon is aggressively upgrading the organization's level of competency... all employees are re-trained... to know by heart the Red Ribbon culture of excellence so they take pride in living and sharing the core values of the company." adds Ma. Theresa Jotie, HR Director.

Improvements will come in a variety of ways: improved dine-in experience with strict FSC (Food, Service, Cleanliness & Condition) compliance, better take-out experience to ensure faster servicing time, enhanced delivery service with a broader coverage and more efficient service. Your favorite cakes are just a phone call away with our easy-to-recall Metro Manila delivery hotline number - 747 7777.



Just think
about it –
somewhere in the Philippines,
a Red Ribbon cake is making
someone very happy today… now, that is beautiful!

You
bring
blessings to
happy
birthdays.

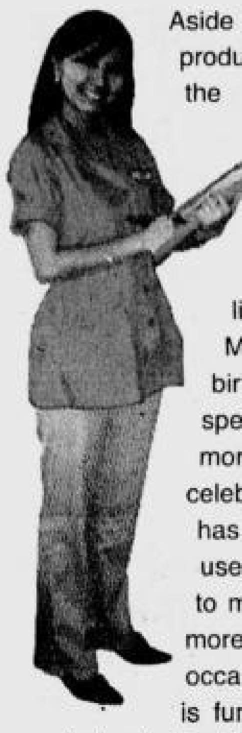
A New Brand Experience

Owing to its heritage of bringing families and friends together, Red Ribbon captures this core benefit in a campaign that best summarizes what the company has stood for all these 28 years. "Whatever the celebration, it's more beautiful with a Red Ribbon" -- a simple yet powerful idea encapsulating the beautiful effect that Red Ribbon products have on any occasion.

Whatever the celebration,
It's more
beautiful
with a
Red Ribbon

Red Ribbon
Cakes by Design

Beautiful Cakes by Design

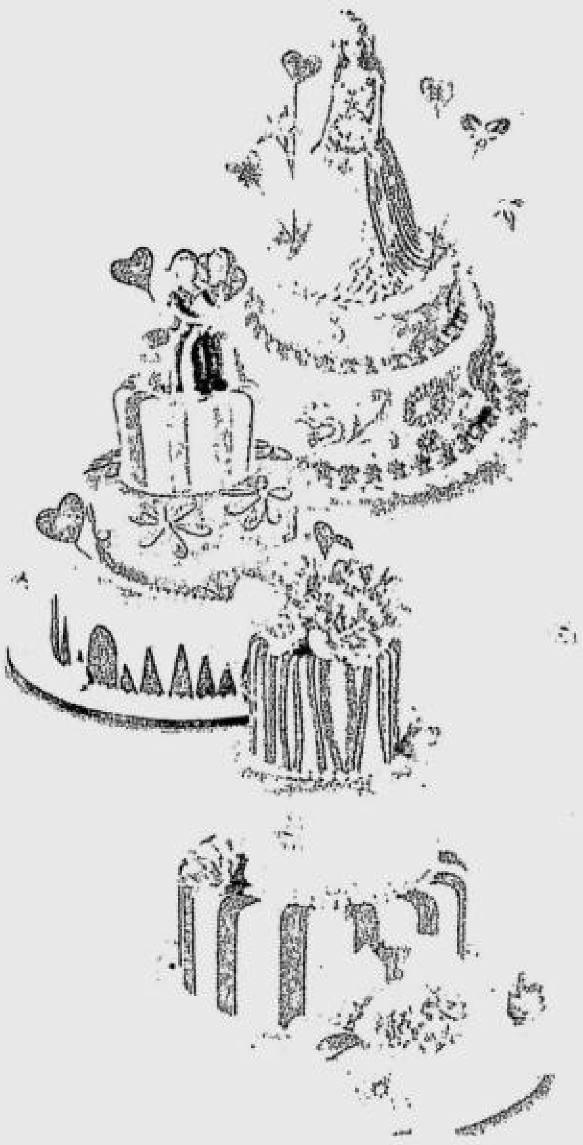


Aside from its well-known favorite products, Red Ribbon relaunches the decorative cakes category under a new name – Cakes by Design. It offers 280 designs ranging from all-original designs, photo cakes, to licensed characters like Barbie, MyScene, and Mr. Bean for birthdays, weddings, and all other special occasions. To provide a more pleasurable experience to celebration planning, Red Ribbon has developed a new set of pretty, user-friendly catalogues designed to make cake ordering easier and more fun. It categorizes cakes by occasion. For birthday cakes, it is further broken down by gender. Indeed, Red Ribbon makes cake selection truly hassle-free.

Red Ribbon will launch 15 new Cakes by Design centers by March 1, 2007. They are located in strategic areas nationwide - Libis, Katipunan, Megamall, Amber, Timog, Missouri St., SM Centerpoint, SM North EDSA, SM Southmall, Binondo, Park Square, Baclaran, Calamba, SM Pampanga and SM Cebu. The centers will be equipped with computers and LCD screens for easy viewing of the electronic catalogue. Well-trained Cake Specialists will be on hand to assist customers throughout the selection and ordering process of their favorite specialty cakes.

Now, celebration planning is a beautiful experience with Red Ribbon.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Advertorial

Whether it's
a quiet gathering
or a
lively
party,

It's
more
beautiful
with a
Red Ribbon

Call me Madam Feng Shui

From page C1

finance, communication).

For more intensive coverage on each animal sign, head to the WOFS store nearest you and check out the popular animal sign books and the Feng Shui Almanac 2007, which is now available in both English and Tagalog. They also enhance each item purchased with positive vibes to bring in luck, with only good intentions of course. Several publications by Lillian are also available at WOFS stores in The Podium (tel. 9147112), SM North Edsa (4420113), SM Mall of Asia (5560615), The Serendra-Piazza (9097088) and SM City Cebu (2314088).

With Washington SyCip

In a relaxing, pre-event dinner hosted by energetic Rooster **Washington SyCip**, Lillian enjoyed the company of highly accomplished individuals who are long-time friends of Wash. Being both Roosters, Lillian and Wash have been crossing paths for many years now.

Of course, feng shui is not for everyone. My husband, **Dennis**, noticing Wash's vast collection of turtles in his house and office, asked him if he was born in the Year of the Tortoise. Of course, that's not even one of the 12 animal signs, so clearly, my husband is better off leaving all the feng shui enthusiasm to me.

Of the five elements, the element of Metal is the most important in the Year of the Boar because the most serious affliction hits the Earth element. Surrounding oneself especially around the body with enough metal (read: jewelry!) is a good way to ensure protection against afflictions this year. Once protected, one can enjoy more opportunities without needless obstacles and hindrances. It's a good thing even metal-looking symbols (read: faux jewelry) does the trick.

Bejeweled exhibit

For lots of precious-metal-and-gemstone-viewing opportunities, head to the Cone Room of the Yuchengco Museum in RCBC Plaza, at the corner of Ayala and Gil Puyat Avenues. The ongoing magnificent exhibit of the Guild of Philippine Jewelers, "Nature Bejeweled," showcases the 16 winning pieces of its jewelry design competition that attracted the participation of an unprecedented 250 entries. The exhibit runs until March 31.

Philippine Nature is a beautiful theme and, indeed, refreshing and innovative creations are on display. The must-see winners are just masterpieces and ingeniously done using precious metals and nontraditional materials.

The highly successful 2nd GPJ design competition was sponsored by Pearl2, PhilExport, Sterling Gifts, Jewelmer International, Discovery Suites, Hoseki Pearl, BPI Foundation and M. Lhuillier Jewellers. This affair has provided an avenue for the country's next generation of jewelry designers to show off their talents. GPJ president **Mia Faustmann** is already looking forward to next year's competition, which embraces human emotions as its central theme. For more inquiries, please call 7281722.

At the opening ceremony, curator **Jeannie Javelosa** toured me around the beautiful museum. We passed by the ongoing exhibit of **Anita Magsaysay-Ho**, whose recent opening was graced by distinguished guests including the Singaporean president. Jeannie told me that the Yuchengco Museum (tel. 8891234) is open for corporate functions and parties. With a venue as impressive as this, any event will surely be a success.

WINNER Marianne Frisnedi

Aside from its focus on Filipino-Chinese artistic expressions, the Yuchengco Museum launched a new thematic series of exhibitions under the title "Art as Design, Design as Art" to focus and highlight Philippine design excellence. This exhibit is timely since jewelry designer Marianne **Frisnedi**, the grand- and second-prize winner of this competition, is a graduating student in Industrial Design from Mapua Institute of Technology.

Metal will be key in the Year of the Fire Boar, but we should all remember that feng shui can only improve cosmic chi by a third. There is also heavenly luck and mankind luck to consider. Heavenly luck is for those who are just born lucky.

As for mankind luck, that is for all of us to work hard at to enhance our feng shui. And this can be done by focusing on good deeds, hard work and charity. Kung Hei Fat Choy!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

Give your child a headstart
in Early Learning. Give him
Gain® Plus
ADVANCE®
DHA-AA TAURINE
Gain® Plus
ADVANCE®
Growing-Up Milk
With EYE IQ® NUTRITION SYSTEM
3
From 1 year onwards
ABBOTT
"Every moment I spend with Jacobo is a lesson in learning. Looking at a book together is his foundation for reading. Scribbling on paper develops his writing skills. And babbling is his way of starting to speak. To help him gain an even bigger advantage, I give him Gain Plus Advance. It has the unique Advance Eye-Q Nutrition System to help support Jacobo's vision, brain and memory. So give your child Gain Plus Advance like I do with Jacobo!"
Dawn Zulueta Lagdameo
Better Vision. Better Brain.
For Early Learning.
Ask your doctor about the Advance Eye-Q Nutrition System.
Or call the Eye-Q hotline 889-0545
or toll-free number 1-800-10-888-Eye-Q.
Visit our website at www.abbott.com.ph
70
Abbott
A Promise for Life

Dawn gains an advantage for Jacobo

A child's intellectual performance is highly influenced by early nutrition. Language and early literacy are the foundations of a child's learning ability, which rapidly develops from 2-3 years of age. Thus it is important that the formative years are supported by essential nutrients to enhance brain development.

Celebrity mom Dawn Zulueta Lagdameo knows the importance of early learning. She lovingly basks in motherhood by spending quality time with her son. "Every moment I spend with Jacobo is a lesson in learning. Looking at a book together is his foundation for reading, scribbling on paper develops his writing skills."

To help Jacobo gain a better advantage, Dawn gives him Gain Plus Advance with the Advance Eye-Q Nutrition System, a unique combination of nutrients such as DHA, Taurine, and Choline.

Mothers can learn more about Advance Eye-Q Nutrition System by calling the Eye-Q hotline at 8890545, the toll-free number 1-800-10-858-Eye-Q or visit the website at www.abbott.com.ph.

GainPlus Advance with the Advance Eye-Q Nutrition System comes in a delicious vanilla flavor in packs of 200g, 400g, 900g, and 1.8 kg. It is available in key supermarkets, drugstores, and groceries nationwide.

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

NBA star and Adidas endorser Tracy McGrady flies four lucky boys to Texas

HOUSTON calling. John Pinto, RR Wong, Lloyd Lacida and Vince Lim at the Rockets home court

Hoop dreams do come true

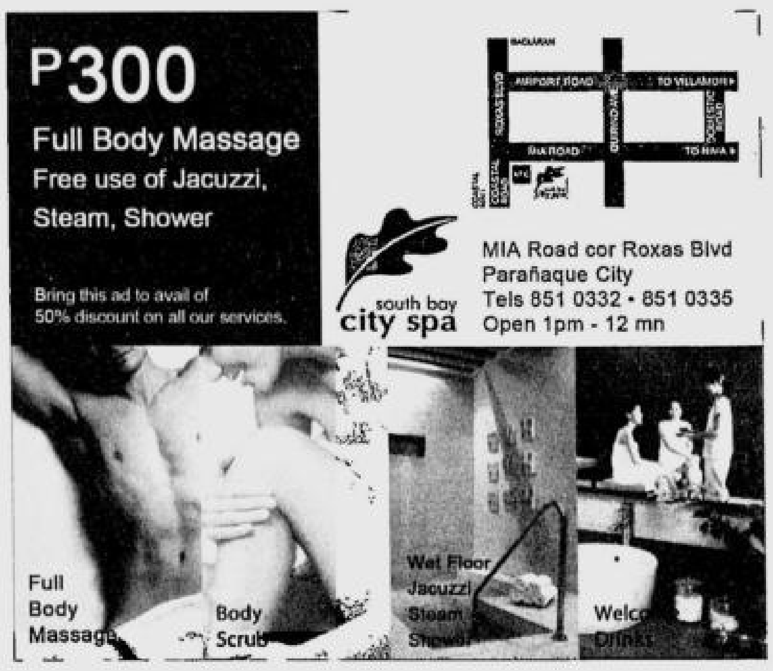
Text and photos by Beia Formoso
Contributor

IT IS THE CLASSIC STORY OF the triumph of the underdog. In fact, you could say it's the classic story of the Pinoy, who is often looked down upon and expected to lose. It is the story of four young boys from Davao who in school are considered as "Team B" (second-rate, if you please) but fought hard to make it to the Adidas Asian Streetball Finals 2006 in China. They made it that far only to lose by one point to the home team in what was described as a biased game not only by representatives from the Philippines but even the Chinese audience.

While these boys had to settle for second place, someone watching the tournament saw how they played with all heart and, more importantly, that they played fair.

Fortunately, that someone turned out to be Tracy McGrady, a frontrunner for Most Valuable Player in the National Basketball Associ-

HOOP/ D2



P300
Full Body Massage
Free use of Jacuzzi,
Steam, Shower
Bring this ad to avail of
50% discount on all our services.
south bay city spa
MIA Road cor Roxas Blvd
Parañaque City
Tels 851 0332 • 851 0335
Open 1pm - 12 mn
Full Body Massage
Body Scrub
Wet Floor Jacuzzi Steam Shower
Welc Drinks

Experience "High Class Conference"
Live Out Pkg. P 600.00 net/pax
Live In Pkg. from 1,650.00 net/pax
FREE WIFI
BUSINESS CTR
GYM, SPA
Hotel Elizabeth
Fersal • Baguio
No.1 J. Felipe St. cor. Gibraltar Rd., Baguio City
(near Good Shepherd, St. Joseph Church,
& Mines View Park)
Tel. No. (Baguio): (074) 619-0367
www.hotelelizabeth.com.ph

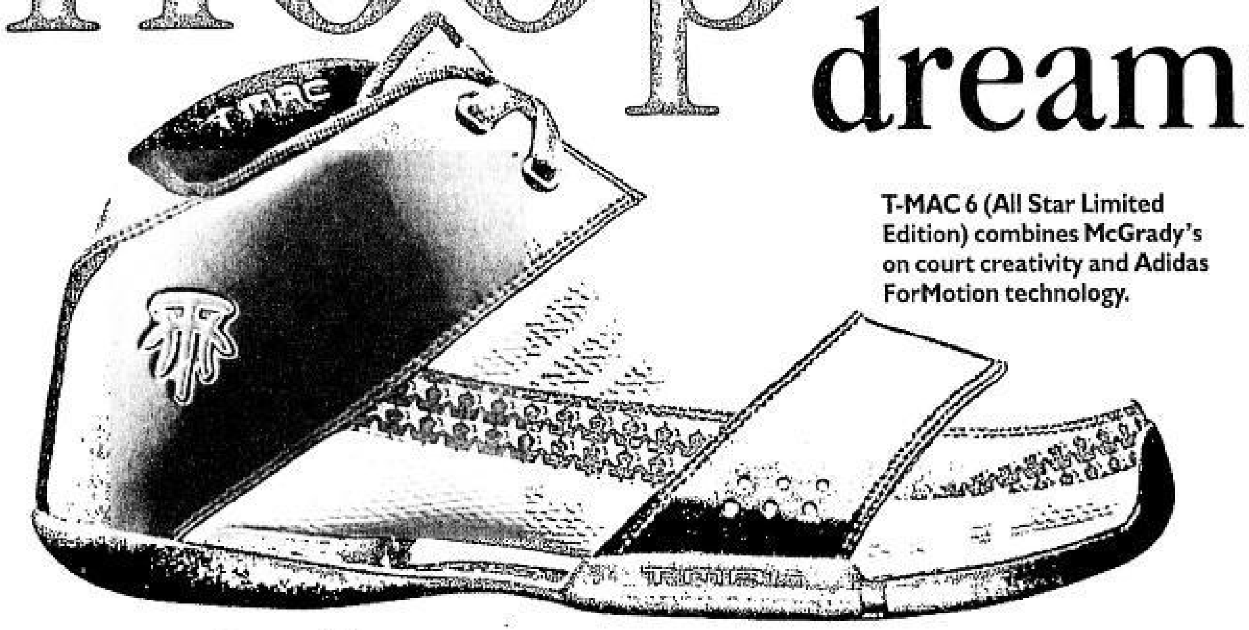
Fersal Place Hotel
CONFERENCE PACKAGES
from P 495.00 net/pax/day (LIVE-OUT PACKAGE)
1,388.00 net/pax/day (LIVE-IN PACKAGE)
131 Malakas St., Diliman, Quezon City • Tel. No. (632) 426-7308 • reservations@fersalplace.com.ph

FERSAL INN
Newly renovated rooms reservations@fersalinn.com.ph
From P 550.00 to 900.00 net/pax (Based on Twin Sharing) (FREE BREAKFAST*)
• P. Tuazon St., Cubao, Quezon City .... Tel.: (+632) 912-8000
• Annapolis St., Cubao, Quezon City .... Tel.: (+632) 912-5852
• Neptune St., Makati City .... Tel.: (+632) 897-9123
• Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City .... Tel.: (+632) 924-2689
• Andalucia St., Sta. Cruz, Manila .... Tel.: (+632) 742-7292
(*Except Annapolis Branch)
Inn Café "Dining with pleasure at affordable prices"
Manila Reservations Office: (632) 912-2691 • Trunk Line: (632) 911-2161 local 148 • Fax: (632) 912-2693

bench/
2007
Discover Bench's freshest squeeze for Summer
Bench
OT
Overhauled Jeans
find out this 12 noon at Aliw Theater, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Live on

SOUVENIR. The RP team thanks their benefactor and idol Tracy McGrady with a gift from their native Davao. At right, the PRC and RP teams giving the Houston Rockets coveted high-fives before the Rockets vs 76ers game.

Hoop dreams do come true



T-MAC 6 (All Star Limited Edition) combines McGrady's on court creativity and Adidas ForMotion technology.

adidas Asian Streetball Finals 2006

BOYS OF SUMMER. The Davao boys make it to the Asian streetball 2006 finals with (extreme left) Goody Custodio, Adidas sports marketing manager, and (extreme right) coach Ryan Gregorio.

Four boys from Davao prove that the impossible is nothing when you believe and strive hard enough

From page D1

ation (NBA) and the only lifetime endorser of global sportsbrand Adidas. So even though only the championship team was supposed to fly to the United States to be with McGrady and watch an NBA game, the superstar personally invited the Philippine team to come along, out of his own pocket.

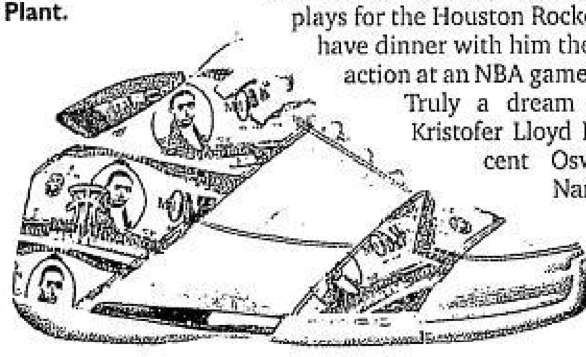
Ryan Gregorio, the Philippine team coach, recounted: "We were still in China about to have dinner after the [championship] game when an Adidas executive told us: 'I know you're all frustrated but that is just how the game is played and we can't really do anything about it... But the good thing is, you have earned the respect of Tracy, and Tracy wants to reward you. All of you will be going to Houston—he will pay for it.' I told [the team] the great news and they all started crying. Even I cried."

"I never cried when I won championships with Purefoods," said Gregorio. "But with this I was touched because [the boys] really overachieved."

McGrady shared the same sentiment: "To have the opportunity to come to the States and hang out with me is a rewarding thing for what they did in the basketball court. It's a huge honor to be a part of this."

As part of the grand prize, the teams were to travel to Houston, Texas, where McGrady plays for the Houston Rockets. They would have dinner with him then watch him in action at an NBA game.

Truly a dream come true for Kristofer Lloyd Lacida, 16; Vincent Oswald Lim, 16; Nard John Pinto, 16; and Ronnierick Wong, 18, of Holy Child School of Davao. Especially since they joined the tournament simply to get some free uniforms and Adidas shoes and to play at their local mall, never expecting to make it to the Manila leg, let alone play in China.



CURRENT best-selling Adidas T-Mac shoe is available only at Adidas in Power Plant.

Tearful reunion

For Wong, the dream was not only about traveling to America, but reuniting with family. Upon reaching their hotel in downtown Houston, Wong and his older brother Randy finally saw each other again after seven years.

Randy moved to the Chicago, Illinois, in 2000 when his wife Joanne petitioned him. He hasn't been back to the Philippines since. Though he would still dispense *kuya* advice to Wong over the phone, nothing could have approximated the feeling of being able to hug your brother and tell him face-to-face that you're proud of him.

"I told him: 'You want to come to the US without help from me or our parents, work hard for it," said Randy. "And now he has done it."

Wong, indeed, had much to prove not only to his brother or his parents, but also to himself. Last year, he got into trouble with his studies when he decided to transfer to a high school in Manila, which meant living away from his family. This resulted in his father having to come to Manila and bring him back to Davao, which of course got him a scolding from Randy.

But by returning to Davao and winning the Adidas Streetball Games, Wong has now gotten back on track. Though he shared that his father showed no interest in his basketball career, he remained hopeful.

"My mission is to make it to the PBA," he said. "Now I know my direction in life. I won't stop until I've done all that I can to gain back my father's trust. I will show him that I can do more."

Unable to hold back tears, he continued: "I want to thank coach Ryan because when no one else was bothering to talk to me, he told me what to do, and I was able to do it."

Hurdles and fame

Gregorio, however, would not appear until the Finals. Before then, the boys were on their own, with Wong leading as team captain.

"I would tell them at the start of every game that we have to think of it as a championship game," recalled Wong. "Because we were so small, we just focused on quickness. So when we got to the nationals, we said what was important was that we get to Manila. That was all we were hoping for. But every game, *laban talaga kami*. That was why it worked out."

Yet even with coach Gregorio in the picture, there were still obstacles.

"We never had a chance to practice, there was no time," said Gregorio. "At the championship game, I used mineral bottle lids on the floor to run plays. And that was the first time for these boys to be exposed to some serious plays."

In the end, it all paid off. After all the strife and hard work, arriving home in Davao from China, the boys suddenly found themselves in the limelight, attending courtesy calls with the mayor, as well as giving interviews over local TV and radio networks. There was even a congratulatory banner at school.

"They were texting me: 'Coach, *sikat na sikat na kami dito!*'" laughed Gregorio.

But nothing prepared them for what Adidas and McGrady had in store for them in the US.

For over 50 years now, Adidas has been coming out with innovative sports gear for the world's top athletes including NBA legends Jerry West, Oscar Robertson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar; and today's superstars, the likes of Chauncey Billups, Gilbert Arenas, Kevin Garnett, Tim Duncan and, of course, McGrady. Having recently signed an 11-year partnership with the NBA as its official uniform and apparel, the Adidas group certainly pulled some strings to give the boys an unforgettable experience.

There was the pleasant surprise of meeting Rockets center Yao Ming off court at his very own restaurant where the Adidas party was supposed to just have dinner.

Then there was the NBA game where the boys from far Davao were allowed to watch the warm-up from the Rockets' bench. The ultimate thrill? They were invited to stand on the hardcourt and give high-fives to the players as each one entered the game.

So how did it feel to actually touch the NBA superstars and be just inches away from their basketball heroes?

"*Hindi na ako maghuhugas ng kamay!*" exclaimed Lacida, as the boys excitedly returned to the exclusive suite provided for them by Adidas.

"*Masaya! Sobrang saya!*" said Pinto.

"I talked to Tracy on the bench," beamed Lim. "I wished him good luck."

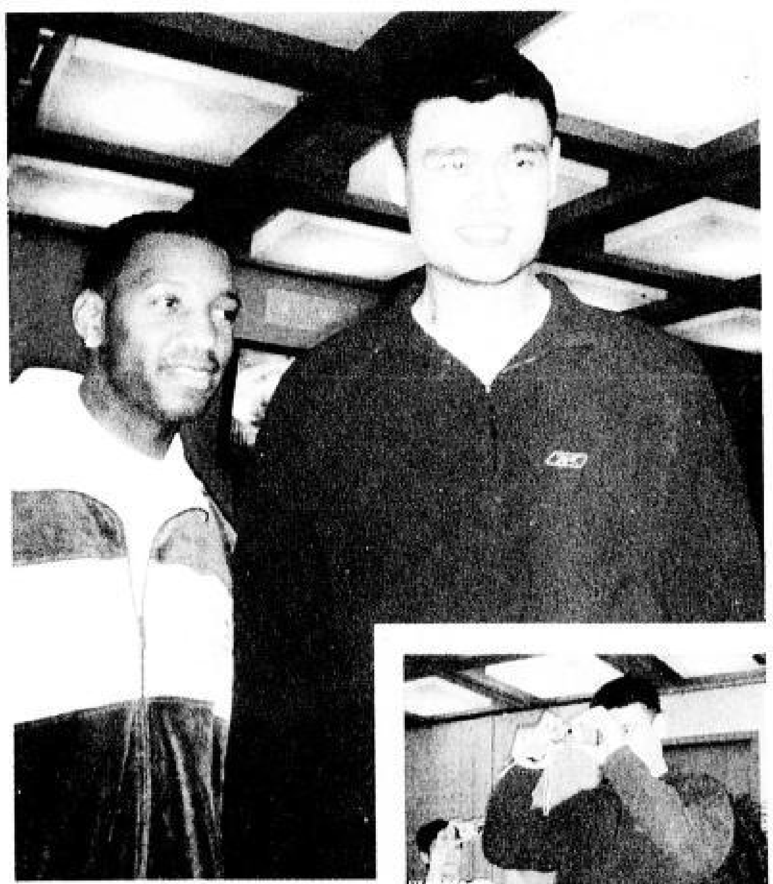
It worked too! The Houston Rockets won the game over the Philadelphia 76ers that night.

Now how many players in the world can say "been there, done that" when talking about the NBA? And to think that all these boys wanted in the beginning were free basketball uniforms and Adidas shoes!

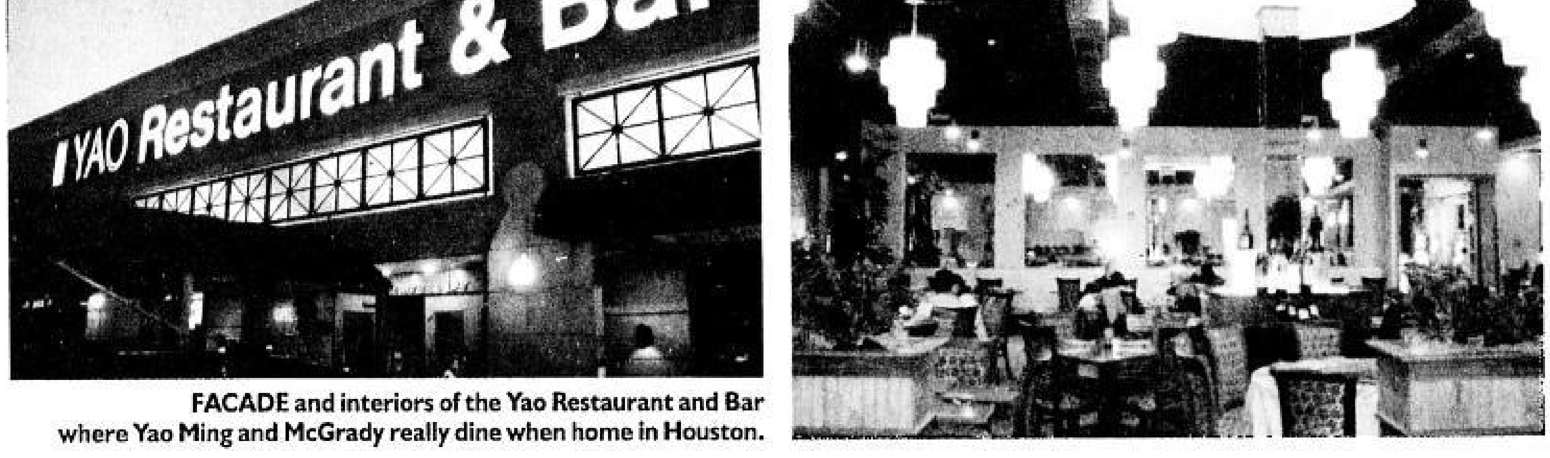
Philippines
Korea

THE RP Adidas streetball team in China

FAMILY REUNION. RR Wang with brother Randy Wang and wife Joanne

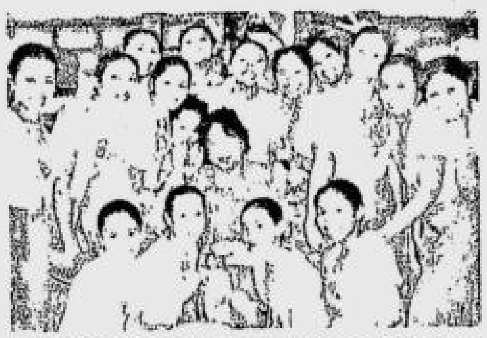


YAO Ming drops by unexpectedly, poses with McGrady for Pinoy guests and (inset) asks to take a photo of his niece with McGrady.



FACADE and interiors of the Yao Restaurant and Bar where Yao Ming and McGrady really dine when home in Houston.

Choraliers in concert



THE CHORALIERS of Harris Memorial College

THE CHORALIERS OF HARRIS Memorial College take centerstage on Feb. 18, 6 p.m. at the Philamlife Auditorium.

The Choraliers was started by Janice Johnson-Ulangca in 1960 when she was a missionary and music teacher at Harris Memorial College. The members are chosen not on the basis of their music talent alone but on their academic performance as well. Only sophomores, juniors and seniors are qualified to be members of this group.

The group has had a string of performances in church-related programs. They have appeared on TV and sung at Clark Air Base and also had a concert in Philamlife Auditorium called "A Night of Sacred Music" in 1994.

The Feb. 18 concert is called "Preludium." The Choraliers will sing selections from Richard Rodgers' "Sound of Music," as well as sacred and contemporary songs. Victoria P. Gabutan is the group's conductor, with Ma. Cielito Amor T. Ubalde as accompanist.

The featured guest artist is Dr. Raul M. Sunico, acclaimed pianist and dean of the Conservatory of Music of the University of Santo Tomas. His repertoire will include Chopin, Debussy, Gershwin, also "Bato sa Buhangin" of Ernani Cuenco and "Larawan" of Felipe Buencamino.

The concert will also feature the "Singing Sweethearts" of the University of the Philippines, Raymond and Jeannelle Bihag-Roldan. The couple will sing opera, *kundiman*, Broadway and popular songs, accompanied by Ma. Pilar Helen C. Dannug and Bert Robledo.

Call 6582197.

Victory for the Good Book

The Tahilin family (foreground) with Cardinal Vidal and NCFBO Secretariat Chairwoman Elvira Go

THE TRIUMPH OF THE Tahilin family from Bulacan caps the final chapter of the 2nd National Catholic Family Bible Quiz.

On the morning of Jan. 22, Edna Tabilin woke up early to pray and prepare her family's costume for the national finals of the 2nd National Catholic Family Bible Quiz (NCFBQ), which was to be held later that day at the Rigodon Ballroom of The Peninsula Manila in Makati.

As she opened her eyes, she couldn't help but smile because she and her family, which was representing the NCR, were billeted at an elegant room at The Pen.

It was the first time Aling Edna had set foot inside a five-star hotel. The night before, during a briefing, she had expressed her disbelief: "*Kahit maralita, nakatuntong sa* hotel. Manila Pen *pa*!"

Indeed, the decision to house the finalists in a five-star hotel was made by the NCFBQ Secretariat chair, Elvira Go, to make the families feel they were highly regarded. To Go, the contestants symbolized the reawakening of Filipino families to the word of God. She wanted to make the four who made it to the finals feel how special they were.

After breakfast, Aling Edna, her husband, Leopoldo, and her all-male brood composed of Patrick, Percival, and Peter Paul sat quietly at the Rigodon where the Rosary was recited, followed by a mass officiated by His Eminence Ricardo cardinal Vidal who came together with a slew of bishops and archbishops from the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Smart in their blue chalecos, the Tabilins held hands and prayed, little knowing that their lives were about to change forever.

Unlike other families who had everything they needed and led a comfortable life, the Tabilins were poor. Aling Edna hawked goods as a market vendor. Many Leopoldo drove a passenger jeepney in Bulacan, but his earnings were often not enough. In fact, Patrick, the eldest, had to stop schooling for lack of funds.

Aling Edna said that one Sunday, while in church, they came to know about the 2nd NCFBQ, which was then calling for participants for the Diocesan eliminations in Bulacan. The family decided to participate, but at first, they were apprehensive, knowing they'd be facing better-educated families. They also felt intimidated because some of the participants had joined in the first NCFBQ and were thus more experienced and better prepared.

Still, the family, assisted by Bible animator Franklin Flores, hung on to the belief that they could win. They prepared hard by giving each one an assignment to review. They would gather in their small living room in the evenings after work to discuss topics and answer mock questions.

The family's perseverance paid off when they won the eliminations, eventually emerging as the NCR winner during the regional final at the club Royale Resort Hotel in Malolos, Bulacan.

Road to the finals

At The Pen, the finalist-families squared off: The Tabilin family, representing NCR; the Cortes family for Luzon; the Tundag family for Visayas; and the Laganao family for Mindanao.

Also squaring off were the four national finalists of the "Power to Unite" dance interpretation contest. Thirty-four youth groups nationwide had joined the eliminations, four of which were chosen: Tuguegarao for Luzon, Jaro for Visayas, Surigao for Mindanao, and Imus for NCR.

The youth group from Tuguegarao had come to Manila thinking that they'd merely perform live during the national finals. Cheers and smiles erupted when their group's name was called as the winner.

Giving them the champion's trophy were Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, Bishop Sofronio Bastes, and Bishop Joel Baylon, who was also the Chairman of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Youth which, together with the Philippine Bible Society, were the newest sponsors of the National Catholic Family Bible Quiz.

Hour of reckoning

After lunch, the hour of reckoning unfolded. It began with a performance by "Pinoy Pop Superstar" champion Jonalyn Viray who sang the inspirational ditty, "To Where You Are."

Quizmaster was Fr. John Young and host was Diane de la Fuente. The NCFBQ theme song, "Power to Unite," was sang by Harry Santos, another "Pinoy Pop Superstar" winner.

The Quiz proper that followed was so thrilling that the audience sat on the edge of their seats as they tried to quietly answer the questions themselves while rooting for the contestants.

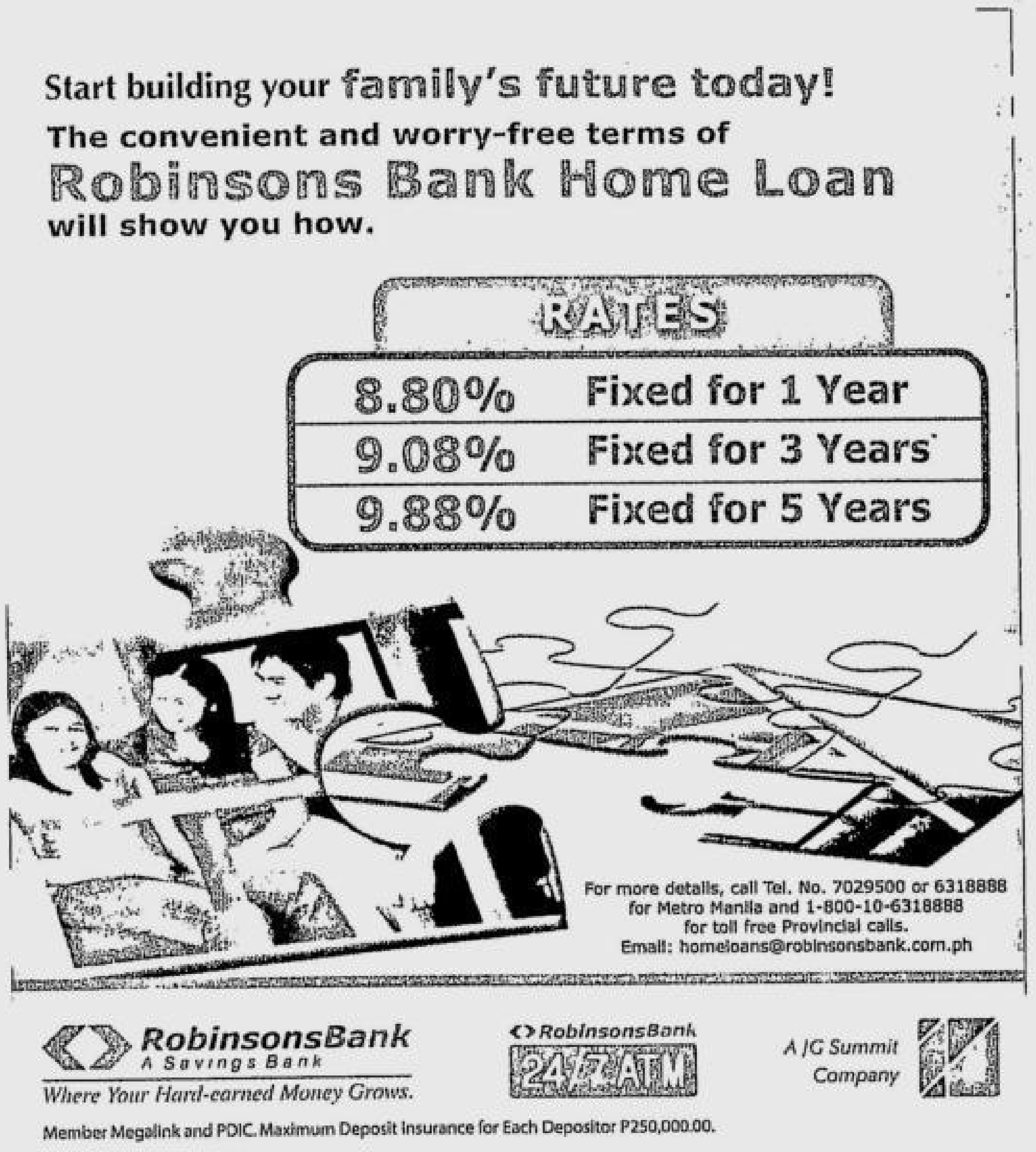
After the first three categories, the Tabilin family jumped into the lead, garnering perfect scores in the first two while getting just one wrong answer in the third.

They were however tested by the Cortes family from Luzon, which matched the Tabilins' perfect scores in the first and second set of questions.

With the Tabilins leading by just a point after the third category, the families were given a break as Diane de la Fuente sang the beautiful Tagalog song, "Yakap Mo." The quiz then proceeded with the last two categories. It was then that the Tabilins underscored their mastery of Bible quotations and passages. Out of 70 questions given them, they were able to answer 63—an amazing 90-percent average!

While the scores were being tallied, Ivy Violan, gave a stirring rendition of "Hanggang." Then the winners were announced: the Tabilins had won! Go and the various CBCP committee heads, awarded the prizes. Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, Chairman of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, gave the closing remarks and the final blessing.

Through it all, the Tabilins hugged, kissed, and leapt for joy as their prayer—to be accepted for the humble family that they are and be a model of hope and accomplishment for other struggling families—was finally answered.

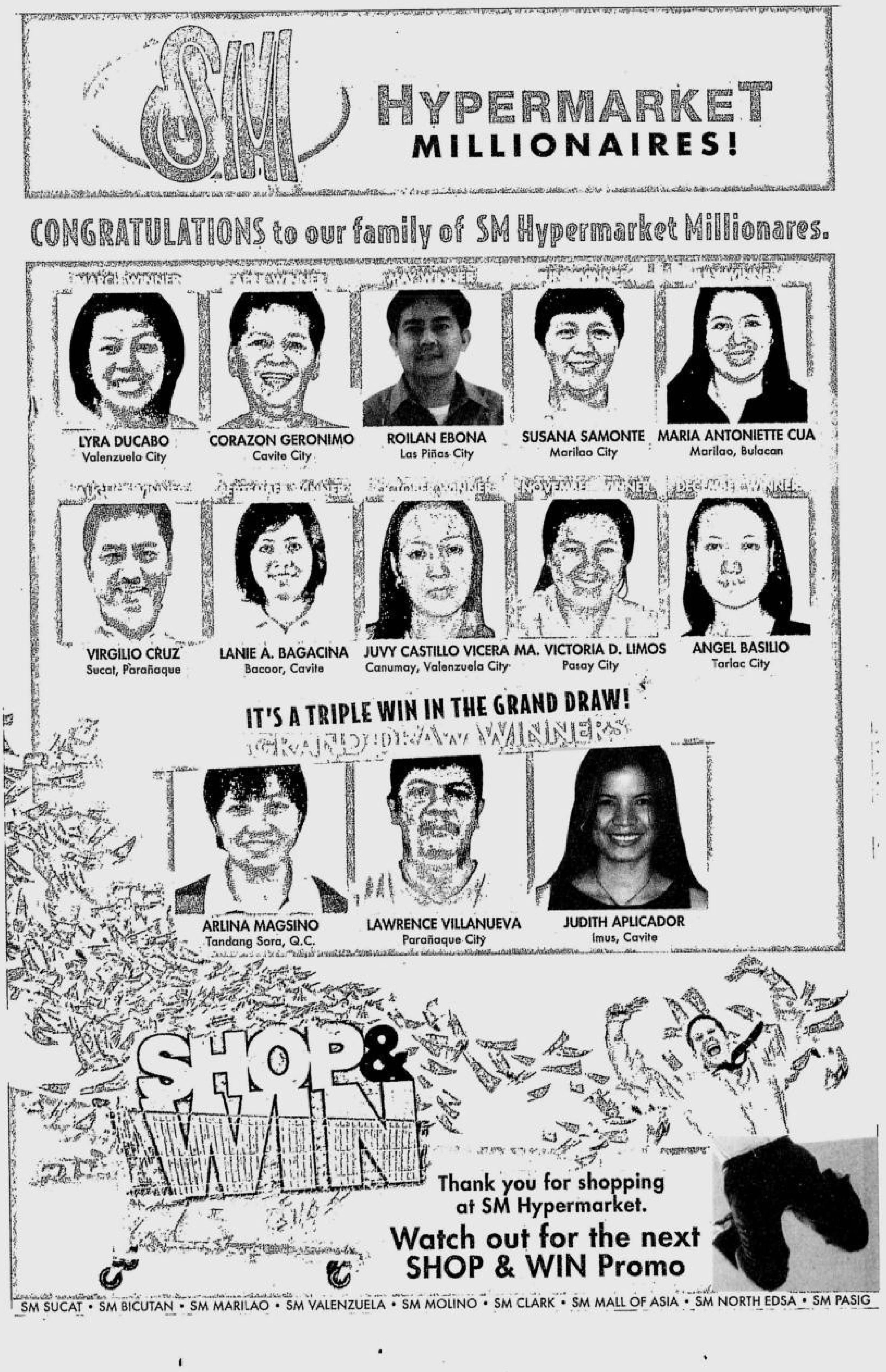

Start building your family's future today!
The convenient and worry-free terms of
Robinsons Bank Home Loan
will show you how.

RATES

8.80%	Fixed for 1 Year
9.08%	Fixed for 3 Years
9.88%	Fixed for 5 Years

For more details, call Tel. No. 7029500 or 6318888 for Metro Manila and 1-800-10-6318888 for toll free Provincial calls.
Email: homeloans@robinsonsbank.com.ph

RobinsonsBank
A Savings Bank
Where Your Hard-earned Money Grows.
RobinsonsBank 24/7 ATM
A JG Summit Company
Member Megalink and PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.00.


SM HYPERMARKET MILLIONAIRES!

CONGRATULATIONS to our family of SM Hypermarket Millionares.

LYRA DUCABO
Valenzuela City

CORAZON GERONIMO
Cavite City

ROILAN EBONA
Las Piñas City

SUSANA SAMONTE
Marilao City

MARIA ANTONIETTE CUA
Marilao, Bulacan

VIRGILIO CRUZ
Sucat, Parañaque

LANIE A. BAGACINA
Bacoor, Cavite

JUVY CASTILLO VICERA
Canumay, Valenzuela City

MA. VICTORIA D. LIMOS
Pasay City

ANGEL BASILIO
Tarlac City

IT'S A TRIPLE WIN IN THE GRAND DRAW!
GRAND DRAW WINNERS

ARLINA MAGSINO
Tandang Sora, Q.C.

LAWRENCE VILLANUEVA
Parañaque City

JUDITH APLICADOR
Imus, Cavite

Thank you for shopping at SM Hypermarket.
Watch out for the next SHOP & WIN Promo

SM SUCAT • SM BICUTAN • SM MARILAO • SM VALENZUELA • SM MOLINO • SM CLARK • SM MALL OF ASIA • SM NORTH EDSA • SM PASIG

WESTERN UNION LAUNCHES REWARDS CARD FOR MONEY TRANSFER RECEIVERS

Loyalty and rewards program now benefits both senders and receivers in Philippines

February 6, 2007, MAKATI CITY - Western Union has extended its loyalty rewards program to receivers of money transfers. By registering for the Western Union Gold CardSM, Filipinos who receive money transfers through Western Union will also enjoy benefits that include discounts at popular retail and services outlets. Previously, only customers sending money transfers through Western Union were eligible for the Western Union Gold Card (not a credit card) and rewards program.

During a press launch held recently at the Intercon Hotel, Western Union executives introduced the expanded Gold Card loyalty program to the media. Themed "Giving our customers more reasons to celebrate," Western Union created a festive venue to launch the additional advantages of being a Gold Card holder.

The Western Union Gold Card loyalty program introduces customers to a world of privileges, with two tiers of rewards - basic and premium benefits. Customers get exclusive access to benefits such as discounts at Western Union's co-promotion establishments. Just by showing their Western Union Gold Card, customers can enjoy the following rewards:

- 7% discount from any Air Philippines published fares for website or textsite bookings;
- Free gift for minimum purchase of P125 made at HBC;
- 15% discount for facial and hair services at David's Salon;
- $5.00 discount on fees for all international outbound transactions (except for Jumbo Box, Jumbo Jr. and Express Pallet) made through DHL; and
- 5% discount for Goldilocks greeting cakes.

In addition, Western Union Gold Card holders who show their cards when sending or receiving money through Western Union will be eligible for premium tier reward coupons. The more transactions made through Western Union, the more exciting the benefits that await customers. In addition, premium tier rewards will be updated on a regular basis.

From now until March 31, 2007, Gold Card customers making a transaction through Western Union will receive discount coupons for use in the following co-promotion establishments: Max's Restaurant, Goldilocks, WOW Magic Sing and Leonardo.

It is easy to get a Western Union Gold Card - customers can go to any Western Union Agent location and fill out a registration form. The card is available free of charge, with no joining or annual fees.

Currently, the Western Union Gold Card is available in the following countries: Australia, Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, the United States and some European countries.

A global leader in money transfer services, customers trust Western Union for its **speed of delivery** - money is available for collection just minutes1 after it is sent; **reliability** - Western Union has been in the money transfer business for over 130 years, and has been in business in the Philippines for 19 years; and **convenience** - it has one of the widest networks in the Philippines with over 6,000 locations nationwide.

Western Union locations belong to different classes of trade including banks, pawnshops, malls and telephone centers, so customers can send or receive money beyond normal banking hours and even during weekends.

For more details, customers can call the following numbers: 888-1200 within Metro Manila, 1-800-1-888-1200 toll free via PLDT, 1-800-9-888-1200 toll free via Globelines to check the status of their funds from abroad or find the address of the nearest Western Union location.

ADV

WESTERN UNION
123 456 789
PH
Gold

ANG MAS MATINDING
WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD
LIBRE AT MAS MARAMI NANG
DAHILAN PARA MAGSAYA

Kung wala ka pang FREE Western Union Gold Card, mag-apply na at:

- Automatically entitled ka sa Basic Gold Benefits just by presenting your card.*
- Every time you Send or Receive money with Western Union, you get Premium Gold Benefits! Mas marami pang discounts and bonuses ang makukuha mo!**

* Subject to Terms and Conditions for each particular discount/bonus offered.
** Existing cards are still valid and entitled to the Basic Gold and Premium Gold Benefits.

Apply now, Libre 'to! Call the following for more details:
- 888-1200 within Metro Manila
- (02) 888-1200 outside Metro Manila (NDD rates apply)
- 1-800-1-888-1200 (PLDT toll-free)
- 1-800-9-888-1200 (Globelines toll-free)

WESTERN UNION
123 456 789
PH
Gold

Your World of Privileges

WESTERN UNION

FAST, RELIABLE, WORLDWIDE MONEY TRANSFER

Sign up for the improved Western Union Gold Card. Libre 'to! Call 888-1200 within Metro Manila or (02) 888-1200 outside Metro Manila (NDD rates apply) or 1-800-1-888-1200 (PLDT toll-free) or 1-800-9-888-1200 (Globelines toll-free) for more information. See countertop teasers for details and full Terms and Conditions.

Air Philippines
7% discount on Published Fares (website or textsite bookings only)

DAVID'S SALON
15% discount on facial and hair services (cash transactions)

ALL THE WAY DHL
$5.00/USD discount on international outbound transactions only for a min. $12.00/USD transaction (not applicable to Jumbo Box, Jumbo Jr. and Express Pallet)

Goldilocks
5% discount on Greeting Cakes

hbc
Free gift with a minimum purchase of Php 125.00

© 2007, Western Union Holdings, Inc. All rights reserved.

As per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0088. Series of 2007.

Sunday LifeStyle

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

AMPONIN-DINGDING

Engineer **Marcos Edwin Amponin**, son of engineer **Edgardo** and **Cornelia Amponin**, wed recently **Gretchen Beverly Dingding**, daughter of **Quintin** and **Rona Dingding**, at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Reception was held at The Coconut Palace.

ISIDRO-CORNISTA

Dinno Isidro, son of Mr. and Ms **Oscar Isidro**, will wed **Monique Cornista**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Irineo Cornista**, on Feb. 24 at the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Better Living, Parañaque City. Reception will follow at the Palm Grove Condominiums Clubhouse. The bride will wear a dress by **Rem Divino**.

BAUTISTA-VILLENA

Dr. **Amiel Bautista**, son of **Roberto** and **Divina Bautista**, and **Clarize Villena**, daughter of **Crisencio** and **Cornelia Villena**, exchange vows recently at Mary the Queen Parish. Reception was held at the newly renovated ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko. The groom is a doctor in the Senate, while the bride is a sales manager at Dusit Hotel Nikko.

NAVERA DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Dr. and Ms **Rafael Navera** of Legazpi City celebrated recently their diamond wedding anniversary.

GENTEROLA DEBUT

Michelle Ashley Genciana Genterola, daughter of **Edgar** and **Nicda Genterola** of Guimbal, Iloilo City, celebrated her 18th birthday with a dance party at Emillion Function Center, General Luna St., Iloilo.

The debutante is a nursing freshman student at St. Paul University in Iloilo.

Her gown was designed by **Jakki Penalosa**.

JB MUSIC
www.jbmusic.com.ph
FERNANDO GRETSCH & REEF PACKAGE PROMO

- Fernando B65P-05 Celluloid drum set
- Zildjian Planet Z 3 prepack

~~SRP P35,775.00~~
PACKAGE PRICE
P25,999.00

- Gretsch BHF-625 Black Hawk
- Zildjian Planet Z 4 prepack
- Zildjian cymbal bag

~~SRP P44,721.00~~
PACKAGE PRICE
P32,499.00

- Gretsch AC-E825PT Catalina Ash
- Zildjian Planet Z 4 prepack
- Zildjian cymbal bag
- Zildjian wood black drum stick
- drummer's throne

~~SRP P58,694.00~~
PACKAGE PRICE
P42,499.00

- Gretsch MC-E825PT Catalina Maple
- Zildjian ZBT 4 prepack
- Zildjian stick bag
- Zildjian wood black drum stick
- drummer's throne

~~SRP P75,165.00~~
PACKAGE PRICE
P54,499.00

- REEF ST-1 Electric Guitar
- 3 pcs. picks
- LA5 amp
- guitar strap
- gig bag

~~SRP P6,850.00~~
PACKAGE PRICE
P4,549.00

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS FOR MORE PROMO ITEMS TO CHOOSE FROM!!!
• SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0301 • SM MEGAMALL 635-5691 / 635-5692 • SM NORTHMALL 925-4010 / 453-9503
• SM FAIRVIEW 935-4467 / 418-0195 • SM SOUTHMALL 806-6725 / 806-6754 • SM VALENZUELA 291-0348
• SM PAMPANGA (045) 963-5236 • SM CEBU (032) 232-1432 • SM DAVAO (082) 297-8266
• HARRISON PLAZA 526-3733 / 523-7041 • PARKSQUARE 1 815-3949 / 815-3855
• ATC, ALABANG 809-1726 / 842-9545 • SALONGA CUBAO 911-2307 / 911-2367
PROMO PERIOD IS FROM FEBRUARY 18 TO MAY 18 2007
PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO 0707 SERIES OF 2007

DOCKERS
SAN FRANCISCO

End of Season Sale

up to 70% off
on selected items only

February 10 - 28, 2007

PARTICIPATING DOCKERS® SAN FRANCISCO STORES:
Alabang Town Center (850-1701) • Robinsons Place, Ermita (536-3114) • Festival Mall, Filinvest Alabang (850-6660) • Robinsons Galleria Mall, Ortigas (636-4918) • Glorietta 3 (830-0915) • Power Plant Mall, Rockwell (898-1087) • Victoria Plaza, Davao City (082-221-4008) • Ayala Center Cebu (032-231-7394)

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0545 Series of 2007

THE BEAUTIFUL couple after the simple but elegant wedding

FEMALE principal sponsors: Pillie Aquino, Sigalit Djemal, Irene Martel Francisco, Vicky Magadia, Cora Tan, Ditas Centeno, Millet Mananquil, and Vicki Belo

MALE principal sponsors: Robert Lilles, Rico Tantoco, Bobong Velez, Paul Daza, Anton Mendoza, Ben Chan, Andy Reyes, and Ernie Salas

A simple dream *wedding* come true

Guests applauded as the bride told her groom, 'Now you're mine . . . all mine'

By Maurice Arcache

IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST ROMANTIC weddings in Cosmo Manille, *palanggas*. Tall, dashing Philippine-born Spaniard Vincent Aldanese took beauteous and brilliant Rhoda Campos, one of Rustan's mega assets, as his wife.

Officiating in this dream wedding of utmost simplicity and elegance at the Makati Shangri-La hotel was the articulate, *tres charmant* Pastor Paul Chase. The couple was surrounded by *famille* and close pals as they said their "I dos."

The Quezon Ballroom was at its best with creative minds Jarlath Lynch of Shangri-La, Lia Bernardo, beautiful Cecile Lilles and whiz florist Robert Blancaflor doing the planning and organizing.

The radiant bride glided down the spiral staircase in a gorgeous Inno Sotto creation and beautifully made up by Patrick Rosas.

Pastor Chase began by giving the couple some down-to-earth advice on what marriage was all about.

The inspiring ceremony was put together by attractive Angeli V. Her husband, the one of a kind Gary Valenciano, sang beautiful songs that set the tone for a truly magical and meaningful evening, dahlings.

The 16 carefully chosen sponsors were architects Anton Mendoza and Robert Lilles, Rustan's Rico Tantoco, Mezze's Bobong Velez, lawyer Paul Daza, Bench's Ben Chan, businessmen Andy Reyes, Ernie Salas, Pillie Aquino, Sigalit Djemal, Irene Martel Francisco, Vicky Magadia, Cora Tan, Ditas Centeno, Star's lifestyle editor Millet Mananquil and, last but never least, Dr. Vicki Belo.

During the ceremonies, as the groom expressed his love for his bride, he stopped now and then, overcome by emotions, prompting Pastor Chase to make a little joke to get him to smile.

The bride remained composed. At the end of her own love notes, she said, "Now you're mine ... all mine," drawing an applause from the chi-chi crowd, dahlings.

The table settings, lighting, eye-catching décor for the elegant sit-down dinner, even the green tea-scented dance floor, awed the invitees.

Dinner, excellently prepared by Shangri-La's mega talented chefs, was complemented by superbly chosen wines and champagne.

After dinner, it was time to hit the dance floor and rock to the great sound of the Power House band.

To our pals Vincent and Rhoda, champagne wishes and caviar dreams.

Cheers, *palanggas*!

THE COUPLE with the cute flower girls and ring bearers

STORES Specialists' Anton Huang

THE CAMPOS CLAN: Josie, Rolex & Loida, Karla (a Julliard School of Music Alumna who sang the bridal march "When I Fall in Love"), and Ronald, with Rose and Tommy Tantoco

MARILOU Pineda, with Maritess Enriquez, and Massimo and Elisa Gera of Treviso, Italy

Gary Valenciano and Pastor Paul Chase

THE VIVACIOUS Pilar Aldanese; with her son, the groom Vince Aldanese; Cuong Traun who jetted in from Paris, and Gemma Abraham flew in from Madrid

---

EMILY'S POST

Emily Marcelo

He supports her family but wouldn't marry her

DEAR EMILY,

I'm 35 years old and living in with my boyfriend of five years. I stopped working because he told me to give up my job. He is the main provider for my family now.

I come from a poor family and since my boyfriend came into the scene, my family is better off than before. I'm very thankful for everything he has done for my family, but the problem is he doesn't seem to have any plans of marrying me after all this time.

Marriage is my main dream so I feel frustrated every time I bring up the subject. I can see that he's not happy about it. I know he loves me, but maybe it's not strong enough for him to want to marry me.

I felt so sad and neglected so I turned to the Internet and began corresponding with this guy. I'm falling so fast for him, even though we only talk online.

He's everything my boyfriend is not. He showers me with so much time and affection that there are times when I wish he is my boyfriend.

One day, he told me he was also falling for me, and now we have an online relationship. He wants me to go to his country and live with him there, but I know I couldn't.

If I do and leave my current boyfriend, my family is going to be a lot worse than before. I just couldn't bear the thought of letting my family down and not being able to help them financially.

Should I sacrifice our love for the sake of my family or should I pursue our relationship?

CHARLENE

What I cannot understand is why your whole family, including an able-minded person like you, has to depend on somebody else, namely your boyfriend for subsistence!

And why are you so terrified of what will happen to the finances of your family if ever you break up with your boyfriend? What is wrong with your family? Are they all bedridden and disabled that they would need constant bank-busting hospitalization? Is there no way for any of them to earn a decent living by themselves without hitting rock-bottom poverty?

And what is wrong with you? Why did you stop working just because your boyfriend told you to? Your letter showed your English is good, so, what happened? What is the score here?

Have the spine to ask him why he would not marry you when you have been living together for five years now. What are his plans for you anyway? If he does not have any, under what category has he put you—a playmate? A welfare and charity case? What? Does he even love you at all?

You cannot, for the life of me, have another relationship—never mind if it is just online! You have a boyfriend who supports not only you, but your family as well! Since the umbilical cord that connects the two of you is spelled m-o-n-e-y, do the right thing and have the decency to break up with him before starting anything with anybody. It will leave such a bad taste in the mouth if you didn't.

I don't care if you're lonely or neglected—just get off one boat before boarding another. Period.

Do not compound a problem with another problem. Solve this case with your boyfriend first before seeking succor from your online romance. There is plenty of time for that. You may just be jumping from the frying pan to the fire.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM).

SMART

The Leader in Wireless Conquers Qatar

More than 10,000 OFWs flocked to Qatar Sports Club, Doha, Qatar last Feb. 9 to take part in a star-studded program presented by SMART PINOY.

Concert with the Stars

Many shows have been mounted for them before, but for the first time, and only from SMART, OFWs in Qatar not only enjoyed watching their favorite Filipino celebrities, they actually shared an afternoon of interactive fun and performed with them! Funnyman Arnel Ignacio hosted the show, the multi-talented Vhong Navarro danced, sang and cracked jokes to the delight of the men and women. Meanwhile, SMART Pinoy endorser, the alluring Ruffa Mae Quinto, heated things up further with her heartfelt singing and dancing.

The climax of the five-hour extravaganza was the performance of Asia's songbird, Ms. Regine Velasquez, who brought the house down with back-to-back renditions of her most memorable classics. OFWs belted out the lyrics with gusto and danced along as Regine capped off her mini-concert with a dance remix of 70's and 80's hits.

OFWs in Qatar were also given a chance to showcase their singing talents during the SMART Pinoy Videoke Idol singing contest. Out of 30 contestants who auditioned, ten emerged as finalists. Amidst the applause and merriment, one stood out as the best. Alvin Lua Amante from the Diplomatic Club DOHA went home with Wow! Magic Sing system, a brand new cellphone and cash prize. More fun and surprises followed as SMART Pinoy gave away cash prizes, cellphones and home appliances in the games and raffle draw.

Various ways to keep the intimacy alive, courtesy of SMART PINOY

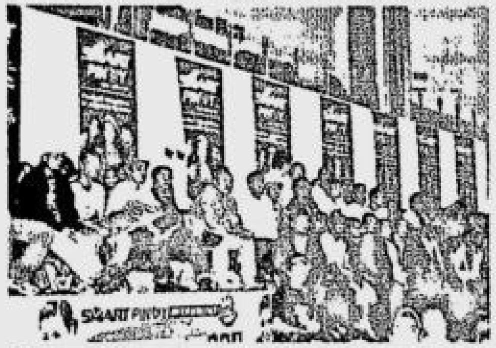
During the concert, the crowd was reminded that SMART Call and Text cards are now available through agents and distributors all over Qatar. These cards will allow Qatar-based OFWs and their families to stay connected with each other, as SMART Pinoy offers a wide range of products and services addressing their various needs. SMART IDD offers voice calls to Qatar from the Philippines, while SMART International Roaming allows OFWs to use their SMART GSM phones even when abroad. SMART International Text allows subscribers to send and receive international SMS messages, while SMART Padala, the world's first international cash remittance service through text, offers a fast, secure and affordable way of sending cash back home.

Full-force support for Pinoy Heroes

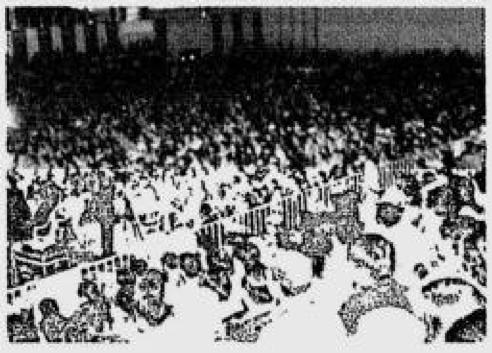
Together with SMART's Senior Manager for International Services, Ms. Jane Basas, PLDT Global General Manager for the Middle East, Mr. Enrique Yu, officers from the Philippine Embassy and various Filipino organizations graced the affair. The crowd appreciated the presence of Philippine Ambassador to Qatar H.E. Isaias F. Begonia, Vice Consul Jabbar M. Adiong, OWWA Labour Attache Atty. Felicitas Q. Bay and Mr. Alex Acosta, Principal of Philippine Science School of Doha. Various Filipino organizations, headed by Mr. Noel Tanafranca also attended the concert.

SMART is the Philippines' leading wireless services provider, catering to millions of OFWs worldwide. As the wireless services subsidiary of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the country's leading telecommunications provider, Smart offers a wide array of products, services and livelihood programs for the OFWs.

This is just the second of a series of roadshows to be held in the Middle East by SMART Pinoy, after the first one held in Bahrain last December 7, 2006. Watch out for the upcoming series of events at Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait!



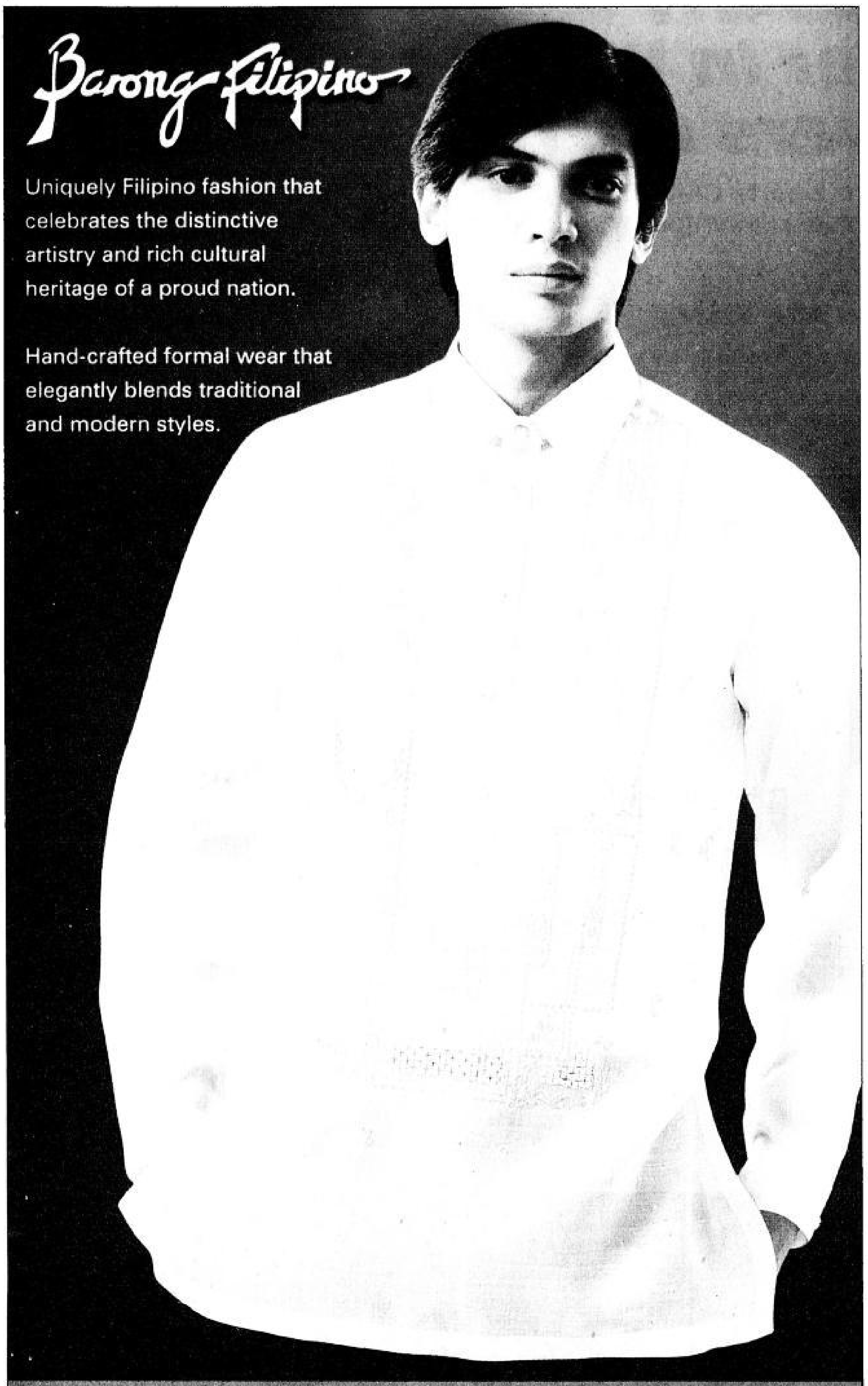
H.E. Isaias F. Begonia
Philippine Ambassador to Qatar



Vice Consul Jabbar M. Adiong,
OWWA Labour Attache Atty. Felicitas Q. Bay

Vhong Navarro, James Bernas – SMART Dept. Head for Wireless Consumer
Solution, Ambassador Isaias F Begonia – Philippine Ambassador to Qatar
Enrique G. Yu – General Manager for PLDT Global Middle East
Vice Consul Jabbar M. Adiong - Philippine Vice Consul to Qatar
Atty. Felicitas Q. Bay - OWWA Labor Attache

SMART PINOY
OFW SERVICES
Pamilya'y pinagtitibay, sa pagganda ng buhay.
IDD
TEXT
MMS
ROAMING
WOW! MAGIC SING
the best-selling magic sing
DAHIL SMART TAYO



Barong Filipino

Uniquely Filipino fashion that celebrates the distinctive artistry and rich cultural heritage of a proud nation.

Hand-crafted formal wear that elegantly blends traditional and modern styles.

Kultura
FILIPINO
A Showcase of Philippine Treasures

SM Megamall Bldg. A • SM Mall of Asia Main Mall • SM Makati Annex • SM North Edsa The Block • Selected SM Department Stores
Open Daily Store Hours 10am - 9pm Mall of Asia 10am - 10pm

A.I.C.A
The Academy for International Culinary Arts

"Professional School for the Global Chef"

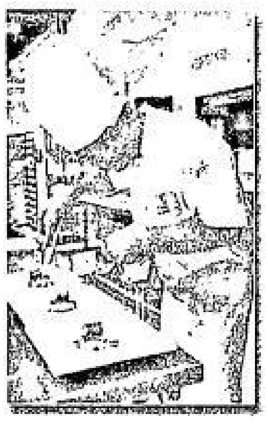
Master's In Culinary Arts by Executive Chef Mats Valdemar Loo

The AICA Master's Diploma in Culinary Arts gives you the ability to further better your professional repertoire and make you more eligible for employment opportunities here and abroad. This course is headed by Swedish International Executive Chef Mats Valdemar Loo and is available in 8 weeks and 1 week durations.

Class Dates:

March 20 – 23, 2007	(Appetizer/Foie Gras)
March 27- 30, 2007	(Poultry)
April 17-20, 2007	(Meats)
April 24-27, 2007	(Seafoods)
May 8-11, 2007	(White Wine)
May 15-18, 2007	(Red Wine)
May 22-25, 2007	(Fruits & Desserts)
June 5 - 8, 2007	(Degustacion)

Diploma in International Culinary Arts Management



AICA's Diploma in International Culinary Arts Management allows you to begin a promising career towards becoming an Executive Chef.
AICA offers a 9-month course packed with quality instruction at just the right time and duration. In addition to providing the finest education and training in the country, the Academy goes one step above the rest by playing an active role in the placement and employment of its students.

Classes open on February 20, & June 5, 2007.

Fundamentals of Professional Cooking

AICA's Fundamentals of Professional Cooking will train you into becoming a very confident cook in a professional and recreational manner. The 16-session course allows you to produce any recipe imaginable and is available in weekday and weekend schedules.

Weekday class starts on Feb 20, 2007 and weekend class starts Feb. 24, 2007.

For all courses mentioned above, please call the school for tuition fee details and other information.

There are only 14 slots in each batch so applicants are urged to register immediately.

2ND FLOOR SKYWAY TWIN TOWERS,
351 CAPT. HENRY JAVIER ST., PASIG CITY
672-2119 • 672-2271 WWW.AICACULINARY.COM

© Disney

You are invited to visit the enchanted world of Hong Kong Disneyland.

Hong Kong invites your family to experience a new world of fascination, wonder, and magic. At the Hong Kong Disneyland, meet and hang out with all of your favorite Disney friends or explore its four theme lands.

The excitement does not end here! Visit Ocean Park for aquatic thrills, great rides, and cool dolphin shows. Or take the Ngong Ping 360 cable car ride and enjoy a 360 degree panoramic view of Lantau's scenic delights.

Experience the wonders of Hong Kong with our very affordable package rates!

Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Supercity Package fm US$338*

- Roundtrip Economy Class air ticket on Cathay Pacific Airways
- 2D/1N hotel accommodation at Disney's Hollywood Hotel (with the option to extend your stay)
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers
- 10 kg excess baggage on the return trip

**Rates for other hotel choices and Hong Kong Disneyland tickets available. Rate may vary depending on date of departure. Disney hotel guests are entitled to free second day admission except Special Days.*

Terms and Conditions: * Tickets must be issued on or before 31 March 2007. Rate valid for travel departing from 01 February to 31 March 2007. Surcharge for upgrade to Business Class travel available. Ticket is non-endorsable, non-refundable and non-reroutable. Rate does not include taxes and fuel surcharge. All other terms and conditions apply.

Call Cathay Pacific office at (02)7570888 Manila, (032)2313747 Cebu, (082)2228901 Davao or your favorite travel agent for more details.

For more information on Hong Kong, please visit DiscoverHongKong.com.

HONG KONG LIVE IT. LOVE IT!

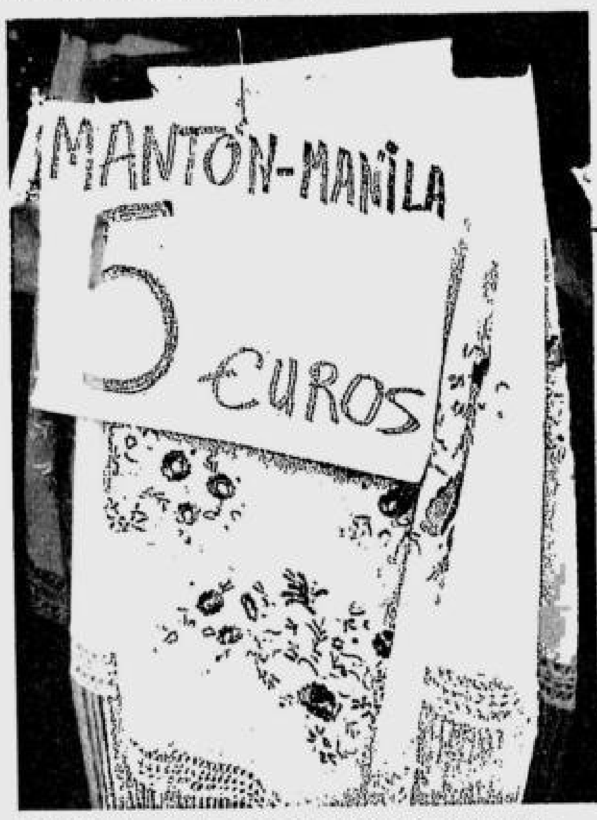
Hong Kong Disneyland Where Dreams Come True
Cathay Pacific
Supported by
Hong Kong Tourism Board
Asia's world city HONG KONG

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)


MANTON-MANILA
5 EUROS

AMONG the odds and ends one finds in the Sunday Valencia *tiangge* are these Philippine shawls.

Valencia has two *faces*

Like a fan with back-to-back designs, the Spanish Mediterranean city is *doble cara* except that its two sides are not identical

STORY ON PAGE F2

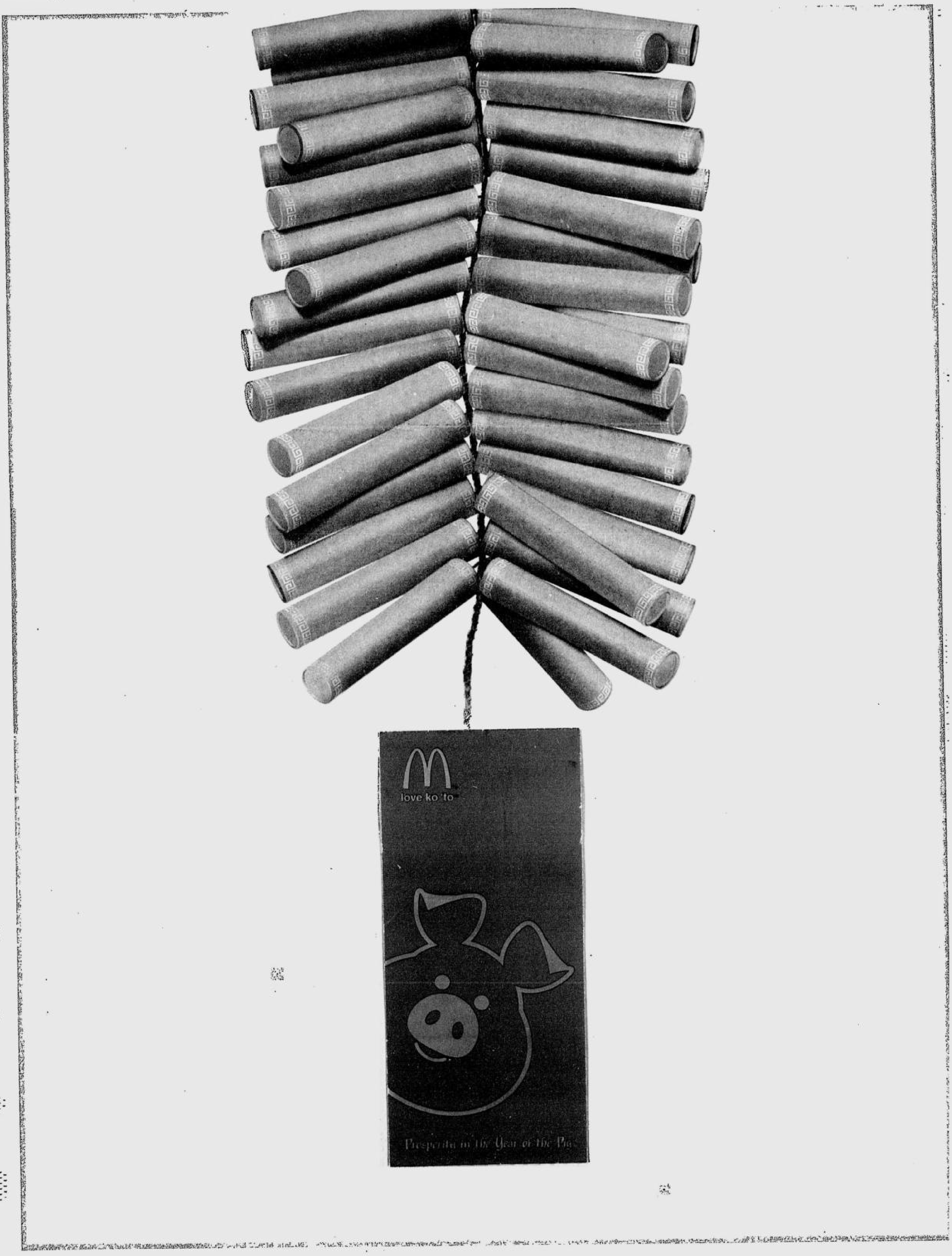
FOR AS LOW AS P 9,750+

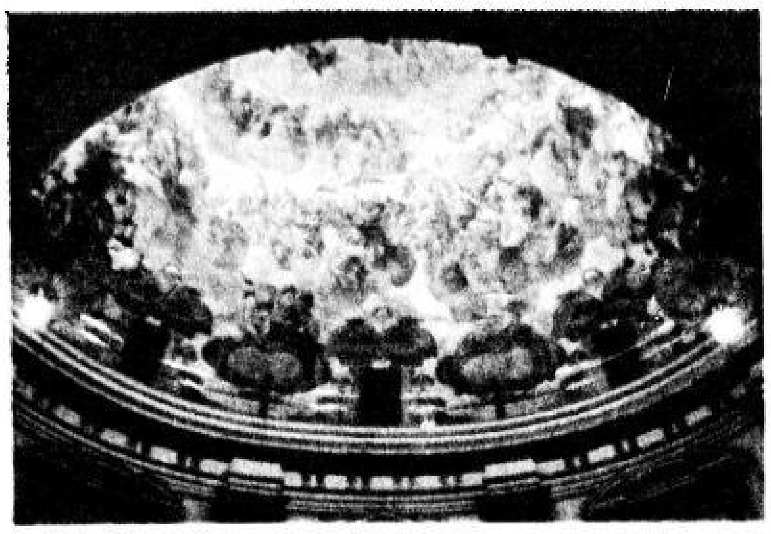
INCLUSIONS
- Use of the function room for 8 hours
- 30% discount on function room rental in excess of 8 hours
- With morning & afternoon snacks and lunch
- With complete basic facilities and free flowing coffee

City Garden Hotel
Makati

Makati corner Kalayaan Avenues, Makati City
Tel. No.: 899-1111
E-mail: makati@citygardenhotels.com
www.citygardenhotels.com

POWER MEETING.
SUCCESS GUARANTEED!


love ko 'to
Prosperity in the Year of the Pig

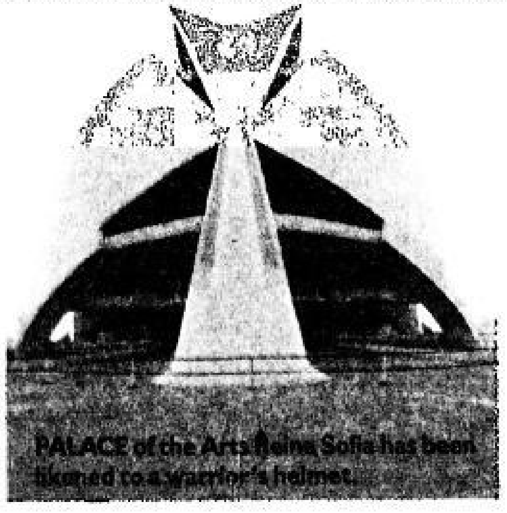


DOMED ceiling of the church of the miraculous Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados

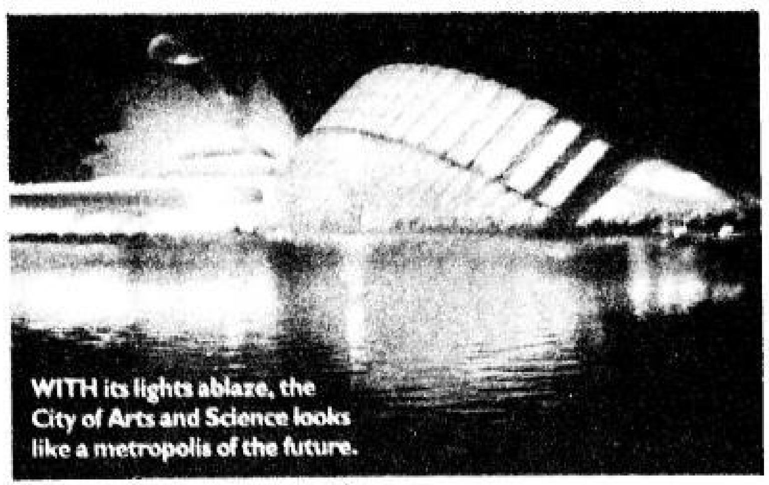
FLOWERS are still abloom even in late autumn at Plaza de la Reina.

THE BULLRING, one of the largest in Spain, can hold 16,000 spectators.

Valencia has two *faces*



PALACE of the Arts Reina Sofia has been likened to a warrior's helmet.



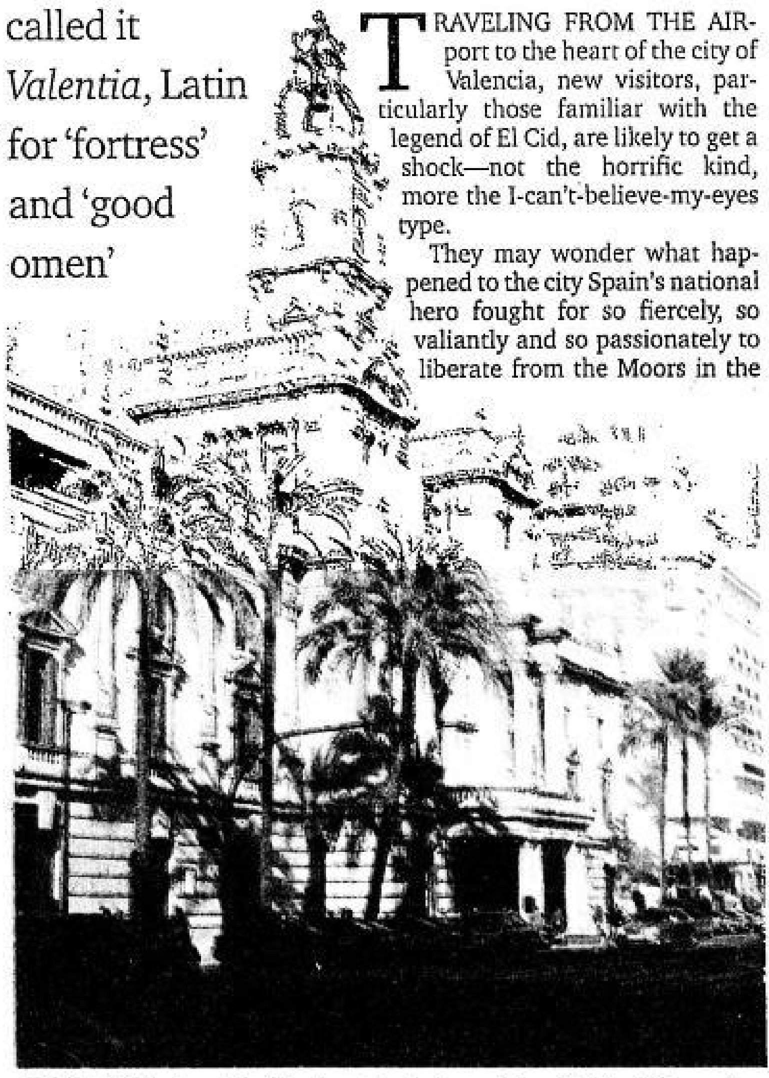
WITH its lights ablaze, the City of Arts and Science looks like a metropolis of the future.

The Romans called it *Valentia*, Latin for 'fortress' and 'good omen'

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

TRAVELING FROM THE AIRport to the heart of the city of Valencia, new visitors, particularly those familiar with the legend of El Cid, are likely to get a shock—not the horrific kind, more the I-can't-believe-my-eyes type.

They may wonder what happened to the city Spain's national hero fought for so fiercely, so valiantly and so passionately to liberate from the Moors in the 11th century.



LIKE OLD Filipino cities, the Ayuntamiento or Town Hall is at the center of a complex of government buildings.

One complex, in particular, the City of Arts and Science, appears to have emerged from the rich imagination of either Gene Roddenberry, creator of "Star Trek," or George Lucas, who gave the world the hugely successful "Star Wars" series.

It consists of edifices in glass, steel and concrete in designs so avant garde they seem to presage an age when space travel will be as commonplace as driving to the nearest supermarket.

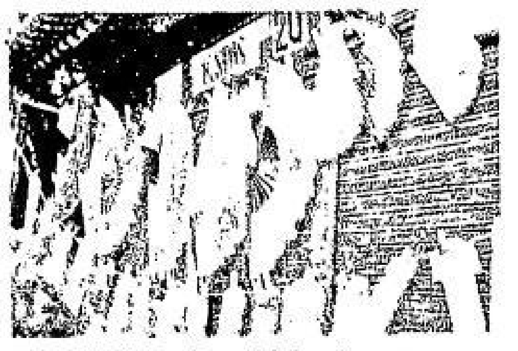
But the visitors' perplexity is bound to be momentary for just a kilometer or so away is the Valencia of legend and history with its Gothic towers and palaces, ornate train station and post office and churches, several of them, in fact, some even standing next to each other.

Pinoy connection

This is where a Filipino really connects with this city, and probably with every place in Spain for that matter. After all, religion was one of the most defining aspects of Spain's conquest of the Philippines.

The thoroughly modern outer ring and the historic inner core of the Spanish city along the coast of the Mediterranean, though at first seemingly at odds, are no more than two sides of the same coin. The description *doble cara* (two-faced) for fans with designs on both sides could very well apply to the city itself.

The only difference is, unlike the fan, Valencia's two faces are not identical—its inner core is a testament to its glorious past and age-old devotions, and the outer ring a homage to modern passions and preoccupations, but both offering the visitor plenty of distractions.



THE MAKING of Spanish fans is a cottage industry in Valencia.

Vestiges of the Roman and the Moorish conquests are hardly visible anymore but it was the Romans in 138 BC who gave the city its name. *Valentia* in Latin is supposed to mean "fortress" and "good omen." The Moors entered Valencia in 709 AD until the Cid, a title taken from a Spanish dialect of Arabic origin that means "sir" or "lord," waged war to free it.

Legendary hero

The Burgos-born Cid, whose full name was Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar and who was also known as El Campeador (The Champion), died in Valencia. He was hailed a national hero and his life became the stuff of legends, immortalized in folk tales, epic poems and a Hollywood movie.

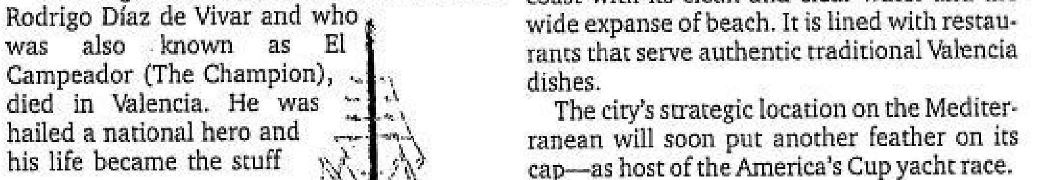
Today the Valencia cathedral stands where a mosque used to be and a Roman temple before that. It is joined by an arch to the Royal Basilica of Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados (Our Lady of the Forsaken), the city's patron saint and reputed to be miraculous.

If the monuments in the inner city are given mainly to history and religion, the modern architectural wonders in the outskirts celebrate the arts, sciences and nature. The Palau of the Arts Reina Sofia, which is devoted to art, music and drama, looks all at once like a warrior's helmet, an observatory and a spacecraft.

The Congress Palace, venue for conferences and meetings, looks like a ship at port. L'Umbracle, a promenade filled with palms and ornamental plants, is a series of arches while l'Hemisferic, which houses a Cine Imax Dome, planetarium and laserium, resembles a huge human eye in the middle of a 24,000-square meter pool.

Not the least of Valencia's attractions is its coast with its clean and clear water and the wide expanse of beach. It is lined with restaurants that serve authentic traditional Valencia dishes.

The city's strategic location on the Mediterranean will soon put another feather on its cap—as host of the America's Cup yacht race.



MEDITERRANEAN coastline is a favorite place for fun and frolic.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

HK Arts Festival opens Feb. 24

THE ANNUAL HONG KONG ARTS Festival that brings together some of the world's best talents and performances will be held Feb. 24-March 25 in 10 venues. It will feature over 150 performances and events featuring 34 groups, 23 from overseas and 11 Hong Kong-based, plus two exhibitions. Opening the festival is the Chinese opera, The Peach Blossom Fan, and the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Yuri Simonov, with violinist Boris Belkin and piano soloists Konstantin Lifschitz and Shen Wenyu.

For tickets, go to www.hk.artsfestival.org/en/book/#postal_booking or fax (852)27349011, or over the counter at Urbtix or through the Urbtix Online Ticketing Service, www.urbtix.hk. The festival's website is www.hk.artsfestival.org.

STB sets 2007 targets

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) aims to generate S$13.6 billion in tourism receipts and attract 10.2 million visitors in 2007. The targets were announced by Trade and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang during the recent STB Tourism Industry Night at the newly revamped National Museum of Singapore.

The 2007 targets reflect an increase of about 10 percent and 5 percent over the S$12.4 billion TR and 9.7 million in 2006, respectively. Last year's total revenues represented a record-setting double-digit growth (14.5 percent) over the previous year's. The 9.7 million arrivals last year was nine percent higher than in 2005. Total visitor days grew by nine percent to 32.9 million days in 2006. STB's website is www.stb.com.sg.

Tours for Baguio festival

Witness Baguio's most anticipated flower festival, the Panagbenga 2007. Engrande Travel will be having a Baguio City Flower Festival Tour Feb. 23-25. Watch the Baguio Street Dancing Parade, Float Parade and fireworks display at Burnham Park. Tour Mines View Park, Baguio Cathedral, Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto and Tam-Awan Village—Igorot Village Museum. For more information, call Engrande Travel Phils. at 8510361, 8511549, 0921-9796165, or e-mail engrandephils@yahoo.com.ph. Their office is located at Buenavista Bldg. 2, Quirino Ave., Baclaran, Parañaque City.

Personal travel assistant

Whether you're traveling for business or pleasure, you can avail of the convenience offered by Citibank's Premium Concierge Service if you are a Gold Visa, Gold MasterCard, or Visa Platinum card member.

The Premium Concierge Service can take care of all your travel needs here or abroad free of service charge. The service transforms the Citibank credit card from a payment tool to a privilege access card. The Premium Concierge Service hotline 6879000 gets you connected 24 hours, seven days a week. Website is www.citibank.com.ph.

Global Traveler Magazine

3RD WIN IN A ROW

Korean national carrier Asiana Airlines received Global Traveler's Award for Best Airline for Onboard Service and Flight Attendants for the third consecutive year. For the award, US travel publication Global Traveler surveyed readers in 2006. The gala ceremony, attended by "Sex and The City" star Cynthia Nixon on behalf of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, was held in New York City. Jo Sung Wook, head secretary of Asiana Airlines International Cabin Service Department, received the award from Francis X. Gallagher, Global Traveler publisher and CEO.

WEEKENDER PACKAGE

Marco Polo Plaza in Cebu City offers Marco Polo Plaza Weekender, a two-night package valid Fridays to Sundays. The package includes two buffet breakfasts at Café Marco, free meals for two children aged 6 years and below, and a 50-percent discount for those aged 7-12. Also included in the package are welcome drinks, late checkout, and a coupon worth P1,500 redeemable at any of the hotel's outlets. The Marco Polo Plaza Weekender starts at P7,500 net (tel. 8871263/7595207 in Manila, 032-2531111 in Cebu, and 8888-168 toll free).

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Making Bicol proud

WHEN ACTOR EDDIE GARCIA OF SORSOGON received his award of recognition for 258 films he appeared in and 29 movies he directed, he said in Bicolano that the award made him happier than all the Famas awards he got.

He said: "I will put my plaque on a pedestal. I am very happy. *Mabuhay ang* Bicol."

The presentation of the First Orgullo kan Bikol Awards at the Manila Hotel brought together Bicolanos from opposite political camps and gathered old friends who had not seen each other for a long time.

Seventeen Bicolanos were recognized for good work done for their communities and the people.

Lydia Valencia-Monfort of Masbate, a member of the organizing committee, was overwhelmed by the turnout. Tenor Frankie Aseniero said he was very impressed by the resumé of each award recipient.

Handing the awards were José Arollado, Lydia Monfort and Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes, SVD, assisted by Daniel Valenzuela, former provincial administrator of Masbate.

Dr. P. L. Lim, founding chair of the Peninsula Manila Hotel and chair of 13 other companies went up the stage to receive his award. The guests thought that, at 92, he would not be able to go up the stage. Two grandsons accompanied him.

In his response, all he said was his name, the name of his parents and that he was born in Uson, Masbate. His daughter Evelyn Lim-Forbes was teary eyed as she watched from her table.

Sen. Jamby Madrigal received the award on behalf of Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Madrigals in full force

Bishop Manolo de los Santos of Catanduanes received the award, representing José Cardinal Sanchez who was abroad. Doña Chito Madrigal Collantes personally received the award, accompanied by nieces Jamby, Chu chu Eduque and Mary de Leon.

Tita Chito, as she is affectionately called, has given 65 scholarships for entrepreneurial courses at the Ateneo de Naga University, according to Fr. Joel Tabora, SJ, president of the school.

Fr. Wilmer Tria, who was also present, manages the Doña Consuelo "Chito" Madrigal Foundation in Naga City. Fr. Mario Ladra, parish priest of San Lorenzo Ruiz Church in San José Bulacan, manages *Tita* Chito's charities there, especially scholarships.

Tony Medina, president of the Faithful Heroes Shining Times that launched the awards project, said the event could help bring peace and unity, instead of intrigues and violence, as they highlighted the positive things people could do for each other.

Bobby Caballero and Cory Quirino emceed the event. Bel Madamba of Tactical Mix Industry Communications did the script and stage direction.

Soprano Deeda Barretto sang a Bicolano song. Her father, Vic Barretto, is from Baao, Camarines Sur, while her mother Liza is from Malaybalay, Bukidnon

Bicolano artist Pancho Piano, who is from Lagonoy, Camarines Sur, exhibited his paintings in the Manila Hotel Centennial Room. They depicted the history and culture of Bicol, particularly the devotion to Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

The books of the late Merito Espinas, like "The Ibalong" were displayed by the University of Santo Tomas Publishing House.

Pioneer

Dr. Justino R. Arboleda of Guinobatan, Albay was honored for starting a very small, pioneering company producing coconut fiber geotextiles to help farmers. The company has received national and international awards for introducing an environmentally friendly construction method using coconut fiber.

Dr. Arboleda's project won the World Challenge Contest for the Best Grassroots Project in the world conducted in 2005 by the British Broadcasting Company, Newsweek and Shell.

Dr. Arboleda comes from a family of 13 children. His parents could not afford to send them all to school, but the young Justino did not give up. He won scholarships to the University of the Philippines, and later to a Japanese school.

Of his many accomplishments, including being an outstanding professor, his development of geotextiles helped more people.

Well-deserved

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte Sr. happily went up the stage to receive his award. It was a well-deserved award for all the good things he did for his province.

His son, Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., has followed in his father's footsteps. Although Bicol was devastated by Typhoon Reming, this did not stop the governor from inviting the Bicol National Association of America to hold its convention, June 26-30, in Camarines Sur. He was in last year's convention in Atlanta with Region 5 Tourism Director Nini Ravanilla.

Symposium

The Second National Symposium on St. Joseph will be held Feb. 23 at the St. Joseph Shrine in San José, Batangas, and Feb. 24 at the CAP Building in Lipa City. Theme of this year's symposium is "Taking Care of the Interests of Jesus."

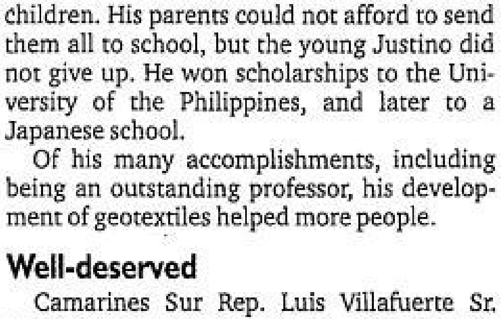
Speakers are Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and Archbishop of Cotabato; Archbishop José Palma of Palo, Leyte; Bishop José Oliveros of Bulacan; Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, parish priest of the Basilica of the Nazareno; Supreme Court Associate Justice Angelina Gutierrez; and Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao.

Fr. Nelson Osorio, OSJ, will celebrate the healing Mass on the second day. The symposium is organized by the Congregation of the Oblates of St. Joseph, through the Josephite-Marellian Movement. Fr. Roy Alkonga is chair.

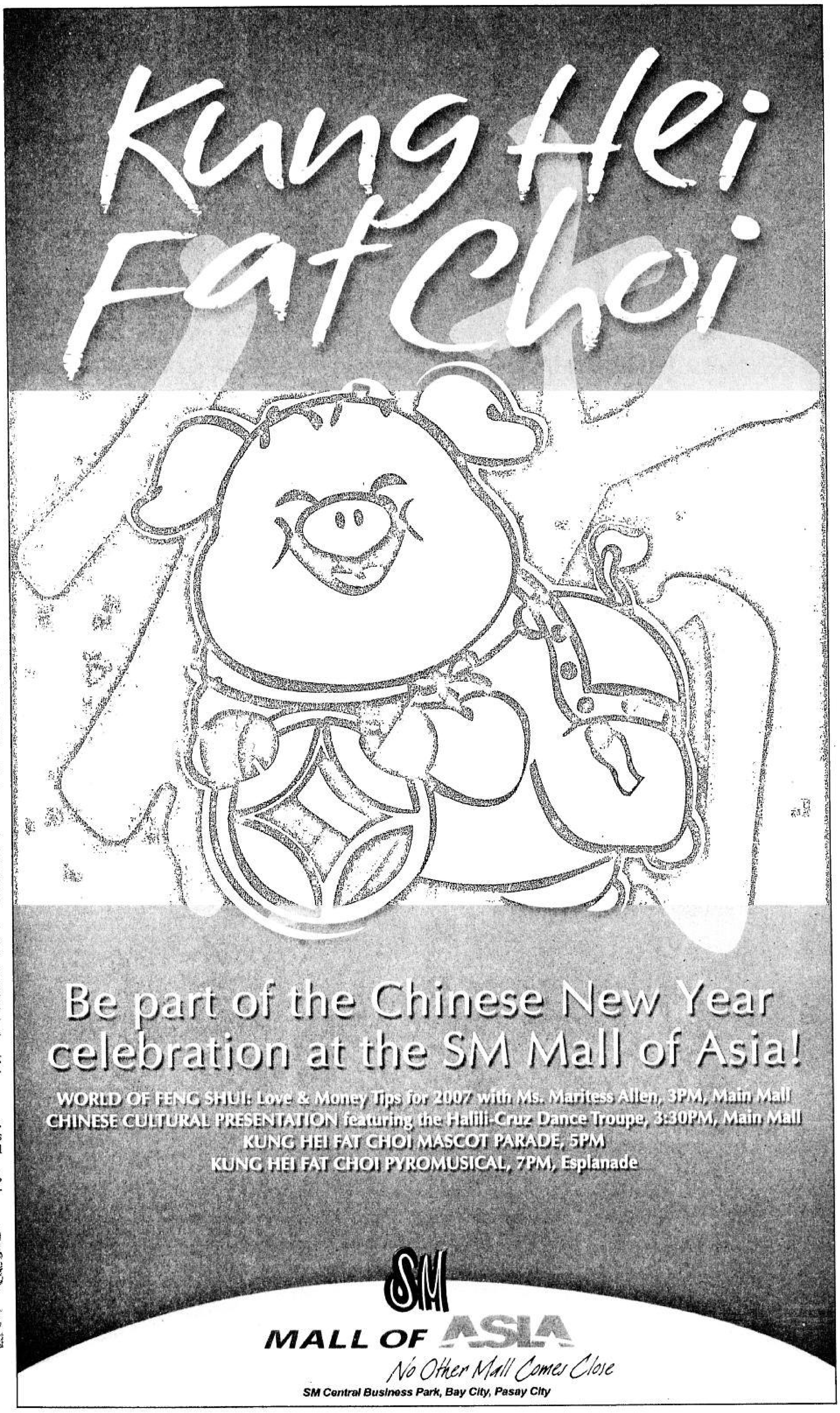
Call Rev. Alex Carandang, OSJ, at 0917-5055119 or Daisy Lasig at 0927-6915532; fax (043)7572013; e-mail josefinos@yahoo.com.

ACTOR Eddie Garcia (center) holds his plaque of recognition with Joe Arollado, Lydia Valencia-Monfort and Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes, SVD

An organizer said the award, by highlighting positive things, could help promote peace and unity



TONY Medina (right) president of Faithful Heroes Shining Times Inc., artist Pancho Piano, Masbate Bishop Joel Baylon and Catanduanes Bishop Manolo de los Santos



Be part of the Chinese New Year celebration at the SM Mall of Asia!

WORLD OF FENG SHUI: Love & Money Tips for 2007 with Ms. Maritess Allen, 3PM, Main Mall
CHINESE CULTURAL PRESENTATION featuring the Halili-Cruz Dance Troupe, 3:30PM, Main Mall
KUNG HEI FAT CHOI MASCOT PARADE, 5PM
KUNG HEI FAT CHOI PYROMUSICAL, 7PM, Esplanade

SM MALL OF ASIA
No Other Mall Comes Close
SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City

Fly and Shop
LACOSTE
CMG
TRAFFIC

AIR AND LAND PARTNERSHIP. Clarissa Morelos, Singapore Airlines marketing communications officer; Clinton Tan, SIA general manager-Philippines; Rita Dy, SIA marketing communications and services manager; Sin Wai Meng, Keppel Properties president; and Christian Mathay, The Podium mall manager.

All aboard for discounts and privileges

Singapore Airlines has partnered with over 80 establishments, 35 of which are found at The Podium, that offer discounts to holders of SIA boarding passes

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

IF YOU THINK YOUR BOARDING pass is of no use anymore as soon as you get off the plane, think again.

Your boarding pass, especially if it's from Singapore Airlines (SIA), can be your discount card to your favorite restaurants, hotels, boutiques and other personal or household services in the country.

Yes, the SIA boarding pass opens up a wealth of privileges for you if you use it within seven days of your arrival. It will either give you tons of free stuff or big discounts at SIA participating outlets in Manila. SIA has partnered with over 80 establishments, 35 of which are found at The Podium.

The discount promo is part of SIA's Boarding Pass Privileges Program, which is on its second year in the Philippines, but started in Singapore three years ago.

"We want to show our passengers that our services do not stop when they step off the aircraft," says Clinton Tan, SIA's general manager. "We take care of our clients by extending a unique kind of privilege even when they're on the ground."

Passengers arriving in Manila on SIA's three daily flights from Singapore or from any destination via SIA simply have to present their boarding pass stubs at the partner establishments. Rita Dy, SIA marketing communications and services manager, says each establishment will have a signage or a posted notice of the boarding pass promo for the clients to know.

"The Podium has been our loyal mall partner in this endeavor, wherein every year we increase the number of participating outlets. We choose our partners carefully. If their services are good, we get them," says Dy.

Participating stores at The Podium include National Bookstore giving 20-percent off on its all books; Hoseki Jewelry Art with 50-percent off on all regular items; and Marithe François Girbaud, Nike Park, Lacoste Footwear, Sisley, Alterations Plus, David's for Revér Salon, American Hearing Center, Hugo's Barbers, Dental Care Center slashing about five- to 20-percent off their products and services.

Foodies will also get big discounts at Pagliacci, Crepes & Crème, Cheesecake Etc., Fuzion Café, 'Akiga Japanese Restaurant at The Podium.

Outside the mall, SIA passengers can enjoy great price cuts in hotel accommodations, dining and shopping. To name a few: Heritage Hotel, Hotel Pontefino, Mandarin Oriental Manila, Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Café Adriatico, Sentro 1771, Häagen-Dazs, La Vigne Bistro, Tea and Therapy.

"We give passengers a lot more reasons to fly these days as we offer more attractive deals and discounts to their favorite places," adds Tan.

SIA's Privileges Program comes with all boarding pass types: Economy, Raffles and First Class. You can use your boarding pass not only in the Philippines but also in Singapore, Australia, Bali, Bangkok and Malaysia. There are also attractive offers in selected outlets at Singapore Changi Airport on the day you fly.

SilkAir, Singapore Airlines' sister company, is also participating in the promo. SilkAir flies daily to Cebu and Davao.

For a complete list of SIA partner establishments and their offerings, visit www.singaporeair.com/boardingpass.

Celebrate flavors of Asia

SHOPWISE AND RUSTAN'S SUPERMARKET Fresh gives customers a wholistic sensory experience until Feb. 28 through the unique Flavors of Asia festival.

Showcased are the countries of Thailand, Singapore, China and Korea. Food items unique to those countries will be offered by the supermarket chain. The festival includes cooking demonstrations.

Today, Shopwise Araneta and Rustan's Supermarket Shangri-La will feature Chinese cooking. On Feb. 24-25, Korean cuisine will be showcased at Rustan's Supermarket Gateway Mall and Shopwise Manila. All cooking demonstrations will be held 3-5 p.m.

Through a tie-up with National Bookstore, Asian cookbooks, travel books, books on the continent's hottest destinations and books on Asian culture will also be available at select Shopwise and Rustan's Fresh Supermarkets throughout the festival.

Shopwise and Rustan's Supermarkets are also holding Asian beer sampling events on weekends.

Shopwise and Rustan's are also giving away eight all-expense trips for two to Singapore, Bangkok, Shanghai and Seoul on Philippine Airlines. Customers can qualify with a minimum product purchase.

SAMPLE China's finest dishes and products during the Flavors of Asia promo at Shopwise and Rustan's Supermarkets.

'Littlest Empress,' a musical, goes on stage

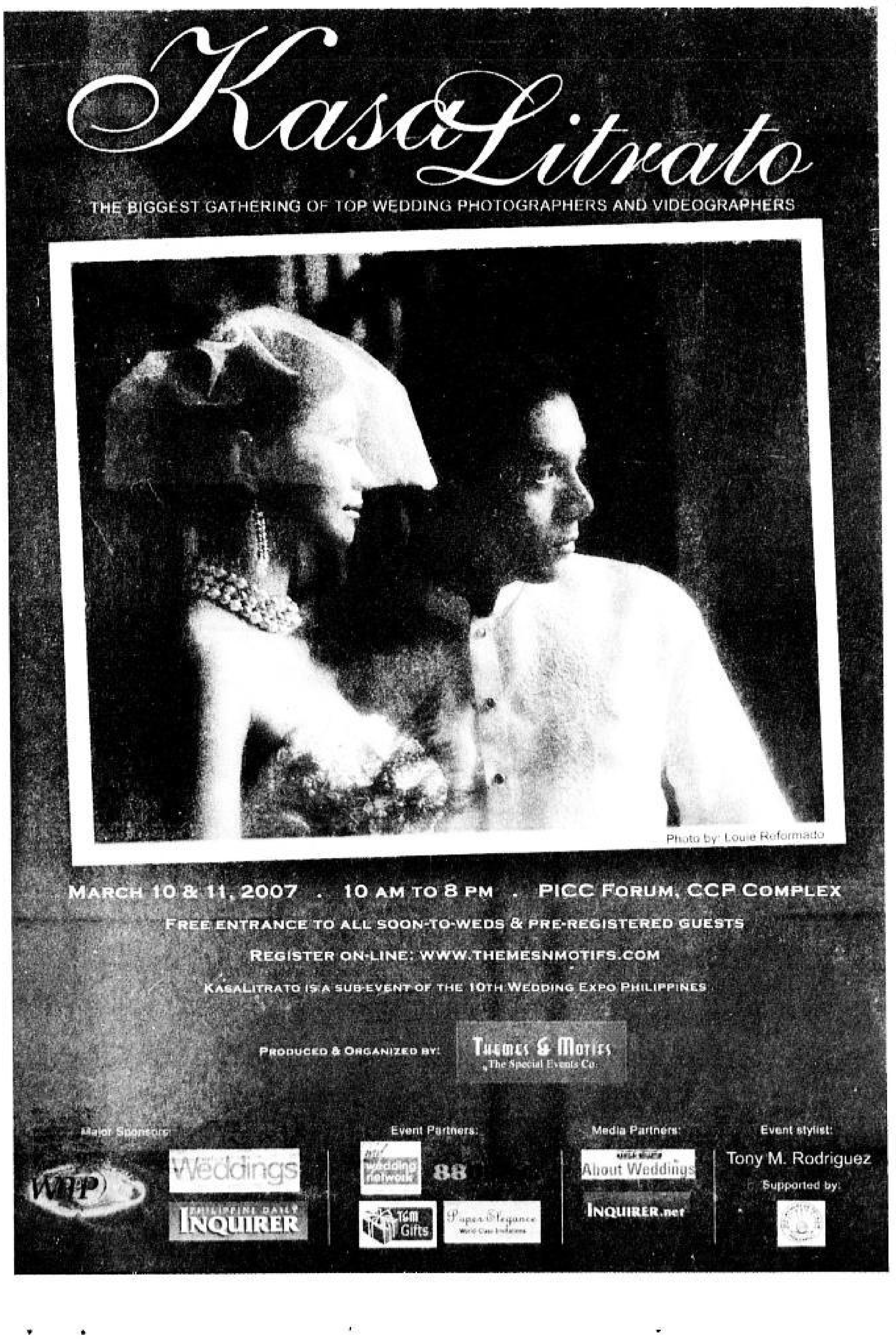
PAREF WOODROSE SCHOOL IS RESTAGING "The Littlest Empress" on Feb. 22 and 23, at the Insular Life Auditorium, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang.

The Chinese play is the culminating activity of all the performing arts groups of the Primary Department. The musical was first staged 10 years ago and is one of the original scripts of Stephanie Cabañes from the story concept crafted together with other Woodrose Primary teachers: Aurora Katindoy, Ronalyn Belino and Lourdes Nazareno.

"The Littlest Empress" is a story about a kingdom whose Light of the Gift of Laughter is in danger of dying when the Emperor forgot the verse after a bad fall. It is he alone who knows the secret magical verse which sustains the Light. The Emperor, distressed that his daughter will inherit a kingdom devoid of laughter, summons his wisest men to plead with the Dragon god to restore his memory of the mystical verse. But they all return in failure. How the gift of laughter is restored to the kingdom to be inherited by the Littlest Empress is a suspenseful adventure with a heartwarming end.

Showtimes: Feb. 22, 6 p.m.; and Feb. 23, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets are at P200 and P150 for matinees; P500, P300 and P200 for gala nights. Call 8506380 to 83 local 109 and 135. Visit http://littlestempress.wordpress.com.

ABSOLUTELY ZERO PERCENT
GOOD FORTUNE awaits BDO and EQUITABLE Credit Cardholders
Automatic Centre
BLIMS fine furniture
SOGO Home & Office
Use your BDO Credit Card or Equitable Card at Automatic Centre, Sogo Home and Office Center and Blims outlets to avail of Absolutely 0% Installment and get a chance to win exciting prizes! La-Z-Boy Anderson, Motorola or Samsung Mobile Phone, Wow Magic Sing, Olympus Digital Camera, Sharp, LG or Carrier appliance!
PROMO RUNS FROM FEBRUARY 5 to APRIL 15, 2007
Equitable CARD
BDO Credit Cards
For more details, call
[illegible]

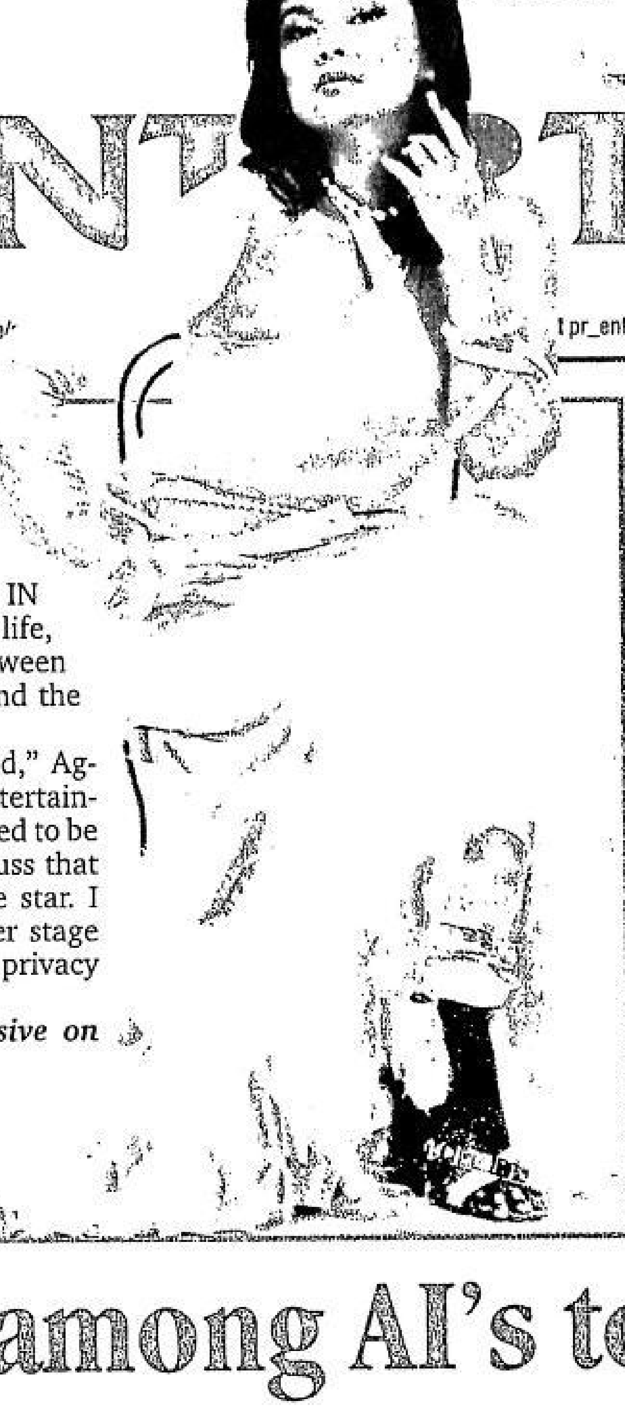

KasaLitrato
THE BIGGEST GATHERING OF TOP WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS
Photo by: Louie Reformado
MARCH 10 & 11, 2007 . 10 AM TO 8 PM . PICC FORUM, CCP COMPLEX
FREE ENTRANCE TO ALL SOON-TO-WEDS & PRE-REGISTERED GUESTS
REGISTER ON-LINE: WWW.THEMESNMOTIFS.COM
KASALITRATO IS A SUB-EVENT OF THE 10TH WEDDING EXPO PHILIPPINES
PRODUCED & ORGANIZED BY: Themes & Motifs The Special Events Co.
Major Sponsors: WPP Weddings PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Event Partners: wedding network 88 T&M Gifts Paper Elegance
Media Partners: About Weddings INQUIRER.net
Event stylist: Tony M. Rodriguez
Supported by:

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/ t pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph



From 'Amazon' to academic

TETCHIE AGBAYANI IS IN "the happiest time" of her life, shuttling comfortably between two worlds—the movies and the academe.

"Teaching feeds my mind," Agbayani told INQUIRER Entertainment. "Show biz fills my need to be creative. I don't miss the fuss that comes with being a movie star. I don't enjoy being on center stage all the time. I guard my privacy fiercely."

Another INQUIRER exclusive on page G2

INSIDE

- **Cliff Richard finds time for an RP charity** /G4
- **No one's banned from BigSkyMind** /G5
- **Scarlett Johansson & the closest she can get to a Harvard degree** /G2

YSTILO
SALON
Nail Art
www.ystilosalon.com

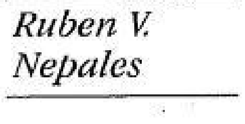
[illegible] • SM CITY SAN LAZARO(?)[illegible] 7061 • SM CITY DASMARIÑAS(046)432-3170 SM CITY STA ROSA(049)502 0126 • FESTIVAL MALL ALABANG(?)771 1608 • BERKELEY SQUARE COMMONWEALTH(?)932-6388 ROBINSONS PLACE LIPA(043)757-3587 • SOUTH SUPERMARKET VALENZUELA(?)291 9645 • NEPO MALL DAGUPAN(075)522-4338 PACIFIC MALL LUCENA(042)710 4399 • GAISANO MALL OF DAVAO(082)227-8550 • FAIRVIEW Q.C (461 6247 TIMOG, Q.C(927 7532 • VITO CRUZ MAKATI-893-2801 • B.F. HOMES, PARAÑAQUE(775 0394 ANTIPOLO RIZAL(?)630-2563 • MALOLOS BULACAN(044)662 1233 • BALIUAG BULACAN(044)766 078 TANAUAN, BATANGAS(043)778 5048 • STA CRUZ LAGUNA(049)808 5079 • DUMAGUETE CITY(035)422 9155 METRO TOWN MALL TARLAC CITY(045)982-1981 • ANGELES CITY PAMPANGA(045)888-2814 • SOON TO OPEN OLONGAPO

FRANCHISE AVAILABLE CALL 927-7508-09 & 426-4567

Fil-Am among AI's top 24

...and Jim Carrey goes crazy over 'The Number 23'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—FROM THE tens of thousands who tried to have a shot at being this year's "American Idol," a Filipino-American, **AJ Tabaldo**, got picked to be among the top 24 candidates.

On "American Idol's" website, AJ described himself this way: "I'm an ethnic mutt! I'm part Filipino and Portuguese with Spanish, French, Italian and Chinese (blood)." The 22-year-old guy, who works for a shipping service, considers as heroes his "parents… they have molded me into who I am today. They are great!"

Said to be fond of singing as early as when he was 5 years old, the R&B-influenced AJ shared that his proudest moment in life so far was "making it on 'American Idol' and being one step closer to my dream."

The Lompoc Record, the newspaper in California's Central Coast where AJ lives, reported the happy news. In her article headlined "Our Own American Idol," **Emily Welly** wrote, "**Mark Schilling**, business manager of the UPS Customer Center in Santa Maria where Tabaldo works, confirmed that he took two weeks of vacation for the auditions. Schilling hadn't seen the show until he became intrigued by Tabaldo's quest for fame.

"But he has heard Tabaldo sing, and frequently asks him to belt out 'Happy Birthday' to employees. Schilling recalled Tabaldo singing Christmas carols at the UPS loading docks to give the workers a bit of enjoyment during the hurried holiday period. The typical reaction? 'Wow, this guy can sing,' said Schilling."

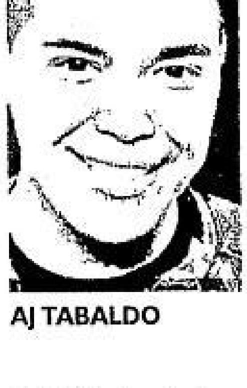
Readers eager to hear AJ's voice can listen to two songs, "Tell Me" and "So Glad," on his MySpace website: www.myspace.com/ajtabaldo.

Congratulations, AJ!

Classic revival

Kathleen Turner is terrific in the revival of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?," which just opened in LA after the play's acclaimed run on Broadway and London's West End.

We saw Edward Albee's classic play about marital combat last Valentine's Day—it wasn't the most romantic thing to watch—but watching Kathleen as the booze-fueled, man-eating Martha spewing vitriol made for a fascinating evening. Kathleen's trademark big, smoky voice, delivering lacerating lines like "I am the Earth Mother, and you are all flops!" and "I swear to God, George, if you even existed, I'd divorce you," boomed all the way to the roof of the Ahmanson Theatre in downtown LA.



AJ TABALDO

> AJ Tabaldo says making it on the world's biggest reality talent show is his proudest moment

To the credit of Kathleen's fellow thespians—**Bill Irwin** as her husband George, **David Furr** (Nick) and **Kathleen Early** (Honey)—they don't get swallowed by the star's powerful performance.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, Kathleen, who left Hollywood and went back to live in New York in the '90s, predicted what Tinseltown folks at the Ahmanson Theatre would say: "Well, I'm sure one of the first comments will be: 'Hasn't she put on weight!' or 'She still looks good!' Honest to God. I mean, the first comment out of everybody's mouth in Los Angeles is how you look, No. 1. Hopefully they'll get past that to see Martha and to see the work." Hollywood denizens have until March 18 to size up Kathleen.

Imeldific subject

So there we were, listening idly to director **Joel Schumacher** ramble on about his latest movie, the **Jim Carrey** thriller "The Number 23," when we suddenly heard the name "**Imelda Marcos**" tumble out of his mouth. Whoa! How did the press con quickly turn into a discourse on an Imeldific subject matter?

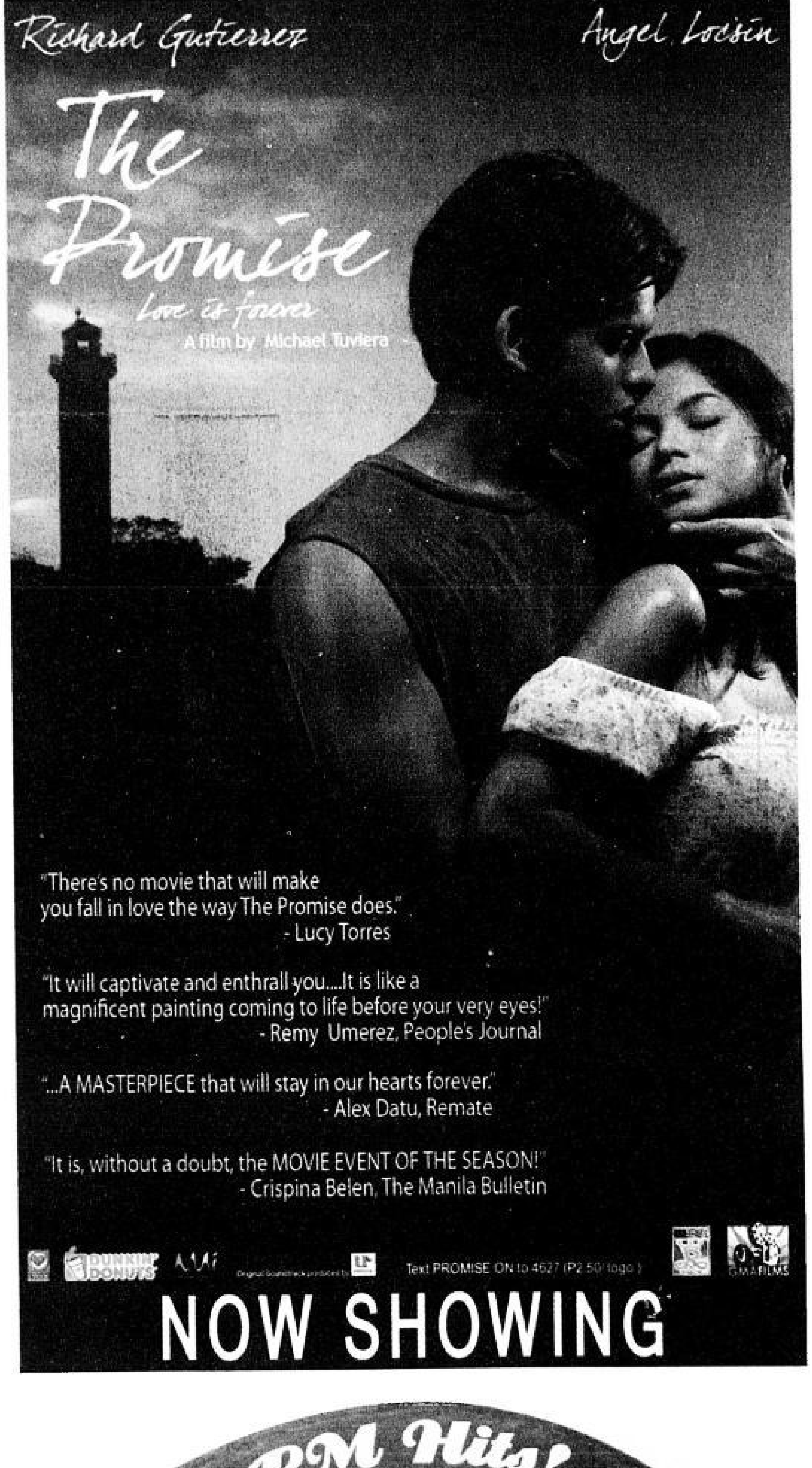
Since the film delves into a man (Jim) whose obsession with the number 23 consumes him, Joel was asked by a reporter if he has his own "tiny obsession."

"Oh, I have huge obsessions," said the openly gay Joel, one of the friendliest, most candid and approachable filmmakers in Hollywood, to much laughter. "If you're going to have an obsession, don't have a tiny obsession. If you're going to be obsessed, go f — g insane. You can't be Imelda Marcos and have only a pair of shoes. If you're going to rape a country and steal all their money, have a lot of shoes."

"I was a drug addict and alcoholic until I was 52," continued Joel, tanned, long-haired and perpetually smiling. "That's certainly an obsession. I certainly have been amazingly promiscuous in my life. I think you can be obsessive with sex. That's a good one (laughter). If you're in a graveyard and you see a tombstone that reads, 'Here lies Joe Smith who was obsessed with money,' then you see one that says, 'Here lies Joel Schumacher who was obsessed with sex, drugs and rock and roll (laughter),' I like mine better."

In our brief chat with Joel after the press con, he told us that he saw Imelda on TV during his recent trip to Europe—which could explain why she was on his mind. Doing his best camp impersonation of the unsinkable Madame Imelda, Joel, arms crossed dramatically on his chest, repeated what the former First Lady reportedly said before the TV cameras: "I am misunder-

FIL-AM/ G8



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13-yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

CERTIFIED BLOCKBUSTER!!!

A film by Michael Tuviera

"There's no movie that will make you fall in love the way The Promise does."
- Lucy Torres

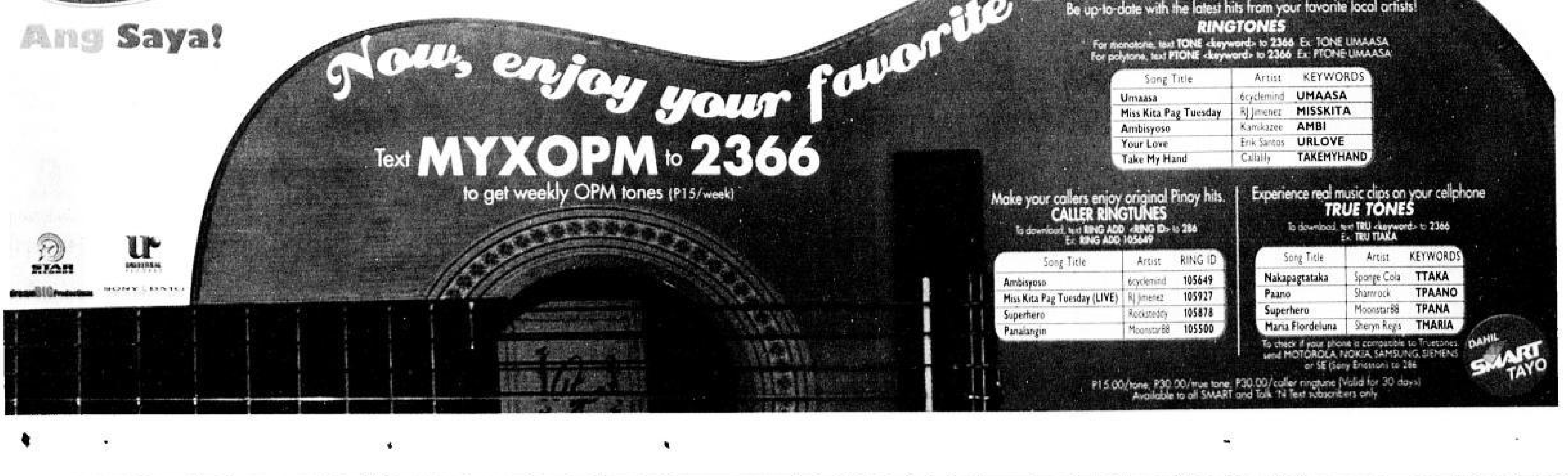
"It will captivate and enthrall you....It is like a magnificent painting coming to life before your very eyes!"
- Remy Umerez, People's Journal

"...A MASTERPIECE that will stay in our hearts forever."
- Alex Datu, Remate

"It is, without a doubt, the MOVIE EVENT OF THE SEASON!"
- Crispina Belen, The Manila Bulletin

Text PROMISE ON to 4627 (P2.50/logo)

NOW SHOWING


SMART Buddy
Ang Saya!
Now, enjoy your favorite OPM Hits!
DAHIL SMART TAYO

Text MYXOPM to 2366
to get weekly OPM tones (P15/week)

Be up-to-date with the latest hits from your favorite local artists!

RINGTONES
For monotone, text TONE <keyword> to 2366 Ex: TONE UMAASA
For polytone, text PTONE <keyword> to 2366 Ex: PTONE UMAASA

Song Title	Artist	KEYWORDS
Umaasa	6cyclemind	UMAASA
Miss Kita Pag Tuesday	RJ Jimenez	MISSKITA
Ambisyoso	Kamikazee	AMBI
Your Love	Erik Santos	URLOVE
Take My Hand	Callalily	TAKEMYHAND

Make your callers enjoy original Pinoy hits.
CALLER RINGTUNES
To download, text RING ADD <RING ID> to 286
Ex: RING ADD 105649

Song Title	Artist	RING ID
Ambisyoso	6cyclemind	105649
Miss Kita Pag Tuesday (LIVE)	RJ Jimenez	105927
Superhero	Rocksteddy	105878
Panalangin	Moonstar88	105500

Experience real music clips on your cellphone
TRUE TONES
To download, text TRU <keyword> to 2366
Ex: TRU TTAKA

Song Title	Artist	KEYWORDS
Nakapagtataka	Sponge Cola	TTAKA
Paano	Shamrock	TPAANO
Superhero	Moonstar88	TPANA
Maria Flordeluna	Sheryn Regis	TMARIA

To check if your phone is compatible to Truetones, send MOTOROLA, NOKIA, SAMSUNG, SIEMENS or SE (Sony Ericsson) to 286

P15.00/tone, P30.00/true tone, P30.00/caller ringtune (Valid for 30 days)
Available to all SMART and Talk 'N Text subscribers only

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER R13 - 12:00,2:20 THE HOLIDAY PG13 4:40,7:30,10:20	MUSIC AND LYRICS PG13 12:40,3:05,5:30, 7:55,10:30	MUSIC AND LYRICS PG13 1:05,3:30,5:55,8:20
GHOST RIDER PG13 1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30	THE FOUNTAIN PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15	GHOST RIDER PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE · FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-144041

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 GHOST RIDER 10:30 , 1:20 , 4:10 7:00 , 9:50 PG-13
CINEMA 2 THE PROMISE 11:10 , 1:35 , 4:00 6:25 , 8:50 PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX
PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 THE FOUNTAIN 11:10 , 1:35 , 3:50 6:05 , 8:20 , 10:35 PG-13
CINEMA 4 MUSIC AND LYRICS 11:15 , 2:00 , 4:40 7:20 , 10:00 PG-13
CINEMA 5 GHOST RIDER 11:05 , 2:00 , 4:50 7:40 , 10:30 PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

Feb. 16 & 17 , 2007	Passion Y Fuego	8:00 PM
March 06 , 2007	EDNA LEDESMA " DANCING W/ THE CHAMPIONS "	8:00 PM
March 16 & 23 , 2007	SITTI ... IN LOVE	8:00 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
Feb. 20 , 2007	DYORDS KO PO	8:00 PM
March 9 , 2007	DAVE	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

TERROR BEGINS FEBRUARY 28
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
HE'S 20 FEET LONG AND HAS TAKEN 300 LIVES.
NOW, HE'S ABOUT TO RESURFACE.
PRIMEVAL
INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY
Primeval-TheMovie.com
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13
"THE FIRST GREAT DATE FILM OF THE YEAR."
- Eric Lurio, Greenwich Village Gazette
"Hugh and Drew are hitting all the right notes!"
- Chris Tookey, Daily Mail
"Grant's impeccable comedic timing makes Lawrence's script a thing of beauty."
- Tony Medley, Tolucan Times
POP!
hugh grant drew barrymore
music and lyrics

Teacher Tetchie in the 'happiest time of my life'

By Nini Valera

TETCHIE AGBAYANI

FROM PLAYBOY centerfold to classroom instructor—Tetchie Agbayani seems to have come full circle, enjoying the time to be her own person and the anonymity she has always craved.

Agbayani, now 45, went back to college some 10 years ago, finishing a degree in Psychology from St. Joseph's College (where she now teaches) in 2000. She went on to pursue her master's degree at the Ateneo, and is now completing her thesis in Counseling Psychology.

"Teaching feeds my mind," Agbayani told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview. "Show biz fills my need to be creative. I don't miss the fuss that comes with being a movie star. It's really a misconception that all actors crave attention. I don't enjoy being on center stage all the time. I guard my privacy fiercely."

Pride and joy

But she loosens her guard a bit and talked about her daughter, China, now 14, and her longtime companion, Joey de Dios.

"As far as we're concerned, we're very much married and settled," she said, referring to her relationship with De Dios. "The term boyfriend is weird."

She said she does not see a reason for legalizing their relationship, preferring the fluidity of a commitment that comes from the heart.

China, their daughter, has grown up to be her pride and joy.

"I like doting on her," said Agbayani, whose teaching job gives her the luxury of time to enjoy motherhood. "My job keeps me busy in the morning. I go straight home after class—famished—and fetch my daughter from school in the afternoon. I also have lots of time to play with my cats. I have 20 cats right now.

"Academic life keeps me grounded. It's safe to say that I'm living the happiest time of my life. I see myself as a working actress who has another world outside of show biz."

Screen granny

Before landing the grandmother role of Vesta in the GMA 7 prime time series "Super Twins," Agbayani played mom to Jolina Magdangal in "I Luv New York."

"It's nice that I can play a grandmother role," she said. "I've played mother several times over. I think it's indicative of the cycle I'm entering in show biz. To be playing grandmother at my age means that I would have a longer life in show biz and would have continuous work."

Before she played mom and grandma, Agbayani took on roles of sex sirens and Amazons, conquering Hollywood in a limited way. But then she felt homesick— so she dropped the opportunity before she could even make a dent.

She said she went to America "to be a normal person" and to pursue her studies. But six months into her stay in the US, she began to land roles in films like "Emerald Forest," "The Money Pit" and "Gymkata."

In 1984, she auditioned for a role in a "Rambo" film, but passed it up when she learned that filming would take place in Mexico and not in the Philippines as originally planned. She was yearning to return home, she said, especially after she had discovered Boracay.

Not 'showbizzy'

For a time, Agbayani, who had bought a house on the resort island, lived by the sea and went to Manila only when there was work.

"I can't remember the last movie I made," she said. "I don't take note of [my film projects]. Even in my house, I don't have framed pictures of myself. I don't have posters of my movies. I'm not "showbizzy" at all.

Career highlight

"Had I stayed longer in Hollywood, I could have continued working. And who knows what would have happened?"

Throughout her Hollywood sojourn, Agbayani said she never disclosed her stint as a Playboy centerfold.

"My agent advised me not to mention it," she said. "She felt that it would have boxed me in sexy roles."

But the Playboy experience would always be a highlight of her career.

"It certainly made my mark in the business and made me a household name," she said. "But there are always two sides to everything. I lost some and gained some. There were the perks, but there was also a downside to it. I got a lot of flak for it, and it threw my life into a cycle of introspection. In hindsight, it taught me a lot of lessons, like getting knocked off your ass and falling fast. Now, I see it for what it is."

Scarlett 'Hasty Pudding' Johansson

RUSHES

SCARLETT JOHANSSON AP

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts—Scarlett Johansson earned her pudding pot at Harvard when she pretended to take a spoof version of the SAT exam before being crowned Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year.

The award is given to performers who have made a "lasting and impressive contribution to the world of entertainment" by Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the nation's oldest university drama troupe.

"This is the closest I'll get to a Harvard degree for sure," Johansson said upon receiving her award Thursday.

Before the roast, Johansson, 22, led a parade through Harvard Square, sitting in the back of a silver Bentley convertible, flanked by Harvard students in drag.

Ben Stiller is to be crowned Harvard's Hasty Pudding Man of the Year on Feb. 23.

Last year's honorees were Halle Berry and Richard Gere. *AP*

KERI RUSSELL AP

'Felicity' marries in NY

NEW YORK—Keri Russell, who starred in TV's "Felicity," married contractor Shane Deary in Manhattan on Valentine's Day, her spokesperson said on Thursday (Friday in Manila).

Russell and Deary, both 30, became engaged last year. Russell is expecting her first child this summer, Jill Fritzo, the actress' publicist, said last month.

For four years, the actress portrayed the lead role of a spirited college student in "Felicity." The series ended in 2002. She starred in the films "Mission: Impossible III" and "The Upside of Anger," and the TV miniseries "Into the West." Her new movie, "Waitress," a romantic comedy, was screened at the Sundance Film Festival last month. *AP*

Will it be silent?

LOS ANGELES—Universal Pictures is ready to roll on a film about 1980s Euro-pop stars Milli Vanilli, whose careers imploded in a lip-synching scandal, Variety reported Thursday.

The script will be in the hands of Jeff Nathanson, who wrote Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me if You Can," the report said. Launched by German producer Frank Farian, the duo Milli Vanilli starred Frenchman Fabrice Morvan and German-American Robert Pilatus.

The pair sold tens of millions of records starting in 1988 with hits such as "Girl You Know It's True" and "Baby, Don't Forget My Number," before winning a Grammy in 1990 for Best New Artist.

But in late 1990, Farian, under pressure from the songs' real singers, told reporters that the photogenic dancing duo were not the voices heard on their album, and that their concerts were lip-synched.

The duo was stripped of the Grammy, and Pilatus died of a drug overdose in 1998 at 32.

Morvan tried to launch a career as a disc jockey in the United States, with little success. *AFP*

Rehab for Robbie

LONDON—Troubled British pop star Robbie Williams spent his 33rd birthday in a US rehab clinic early this week after checking in for dependency on prescription drugs, his spokesperson, Bryony Watts, said.

The former Take That singer has struggled with depression, alcohol and drugs since leaving the boy band in 1995, despite worldwide success that includes sales of 65 million records.

The Evening Standard newspaper said he is believed to be at the exclusive but "hardcore" Meadows clinic in Arizona.

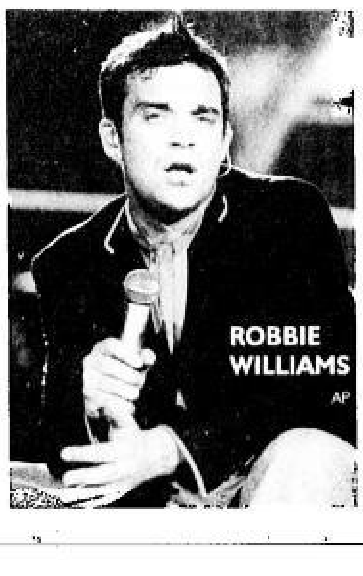
Williams, who now lives in Los Angeles, last year cancelled the Asian leg of his "Close Encounters" world tour over what he said was stress and exhaustion. *AFP*

Feisty at 74

BEVERLY HILLS, California—Actor Omar Sharif of "Dr. Zhivago" fame pleaded no contest on Tuesday to hitting a Beverly Hills parking attendant in the face and was sentenced to probation and anger management counseling.

Sharif, 74, the Egyptian-born actor who played the romantic gentleman lead in movies such as "Funny Girl" and "Lawrence of Arabia," did not appear in Beverly Hills Superior Court to settle the 2005 case but entered his plea through his lawyer.

A no contest plea is equivalent under California law to pleading guilty. Sharif was sentenced to two years probation. He was told to attend 15 sessions of anger management counseling and to stay away from the parking attendant. He was also fined $1,000. *Reuters*



ROBBIE WILLIAMS AP

Less frightened Coppola

NEW YORK—Francis Ford Coppola will follow-up his directorial return "Youth Without Youth" with a vaguely autobiographical film, the director said early this week.

Coppola, who is currently putting the final touches on "Youth Without Youth," his first film in a decade, plans to next produce and direct "Tetro." The film will follow the rivalries born out of creative differences passed down through generations of an artistic Italian immigrant family not unlike Coppola's.

Set in Argentina, "Tetro" fictionalizes what Coppola calls his "very unusual family," which has been populated by artists since his father's generation.

"At this age, I'm more disposed to look at my life in terms of dramatic material," the 67-year-old told the Associated Press, speaking in a telephone interview from his home in Napa Valley, California. "Maybe I'm less frightened ... about writing something that is fiction even though it has its basis in real things that I've seen and felt. It won't offend anybody, I hope." *AP*

Winning a Best Director Oscar—a study in extremes

LOS ANGELES—LOOKING AT WINNERS OF the Best Director category at the Academy Awards over the past decade is a study in extremes.

The filmmakers have crafted either visual spectacles (Anthony Minghella's "The English Patient," James Cameron's "Titanic," Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan") or intimate, character-driven dramas (Sam Mendes' "American Beauty," Clint Eastwood's "Million Dollar Baby," Ang Lee's "Brokeback Mountain").

There is no in-between.

DID YOU KNOW...

Not that looking back is necessary for predicting this year's winner. Martin Scorsese should finally capture the prize that has eluded him for decades, despite having been nominated for such classics as "Raging Bull" and "Goodfellas."

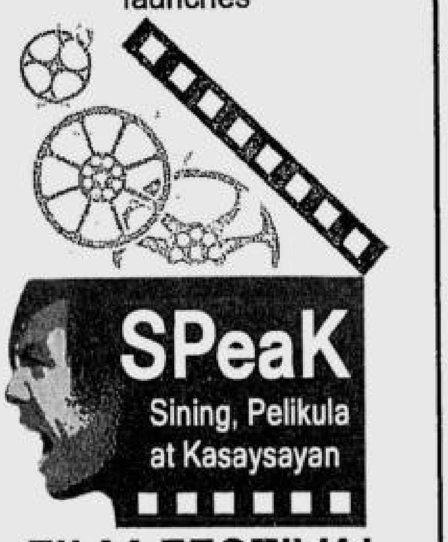
Scorsese's "The Departed," about cops and mobsters outsmarting each other in Boston, is a return to the kind of gritty material that made him legendary.

Honoring Scorsese also would uphold a longtime Oscar trend, says Tom O'Neil, a columnist for the Los Angeles Times' awards site TheEnvelope.com.

"The single most powerful factor at the Oscars is the overdue director syndrome," said O'Neil. "We saw this happen a few years ago when Roman Polanski managed to surmount his bad PR problems and woes to win Best Director (for 'The Pianist') over Rob Marshall, who directed the Best Picture of the year, 'Chicago.'

"When they gave it to Ang Lee last year, it was partly the same thing. He was an overdue director," he added, noting that Lee directed 2000's foreign-film Oscar winner in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"—which also was up for Best Picture that year. *AP*

UNESCO GOETHE INSTITUT DOT PSF
MOWELFUND FILM INSTITUTE
in cooperation with
UNESCO
"Memory of the World"
Philippine Committee
and the
UP
Department of Art Studies
launches



FILM FESTIVAL
February 21-23, 2007
Faculty Center / Vargas Museum
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City
For info, call 410-1467 / 410-4545

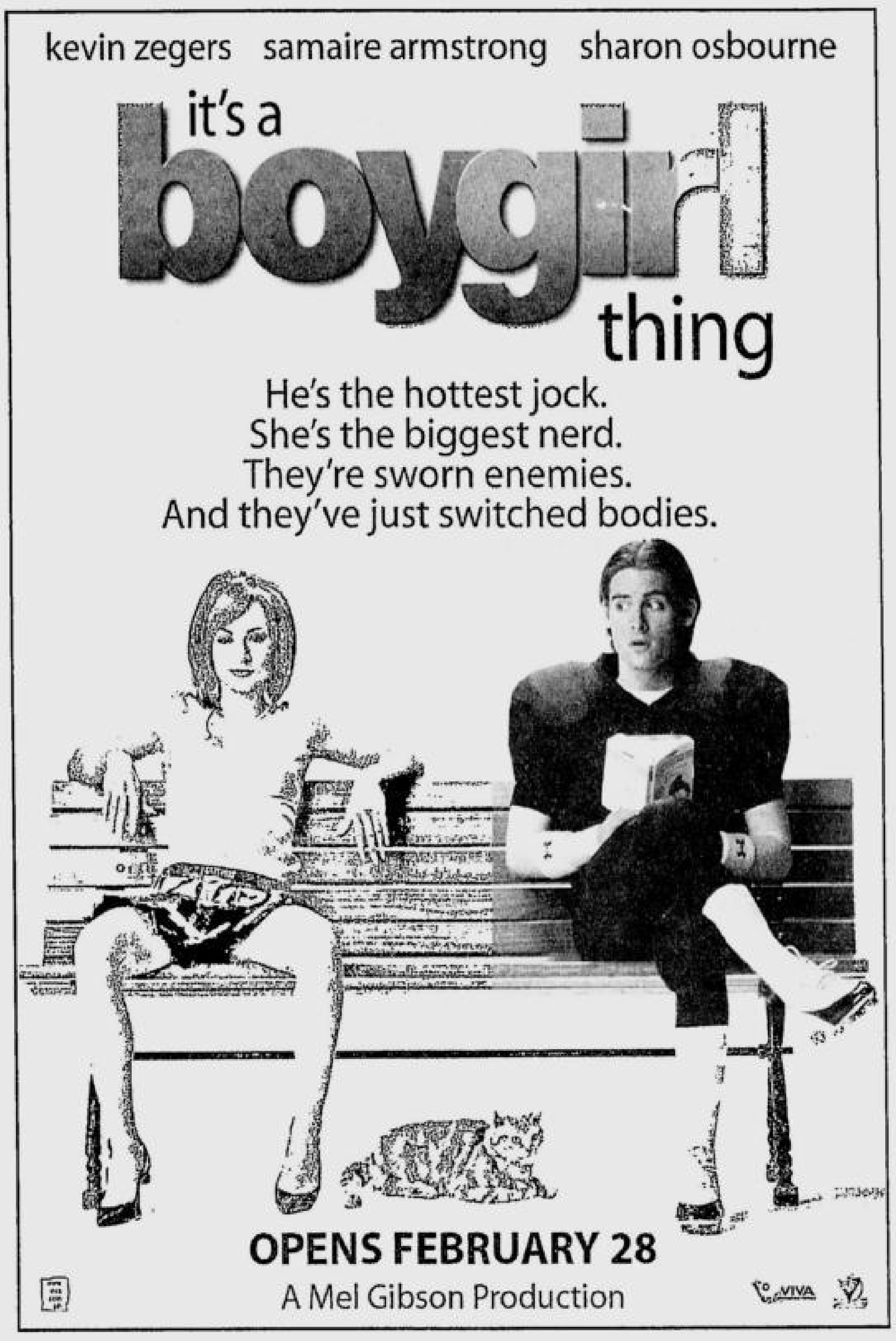
An invitation to the Philippine Book Launching of

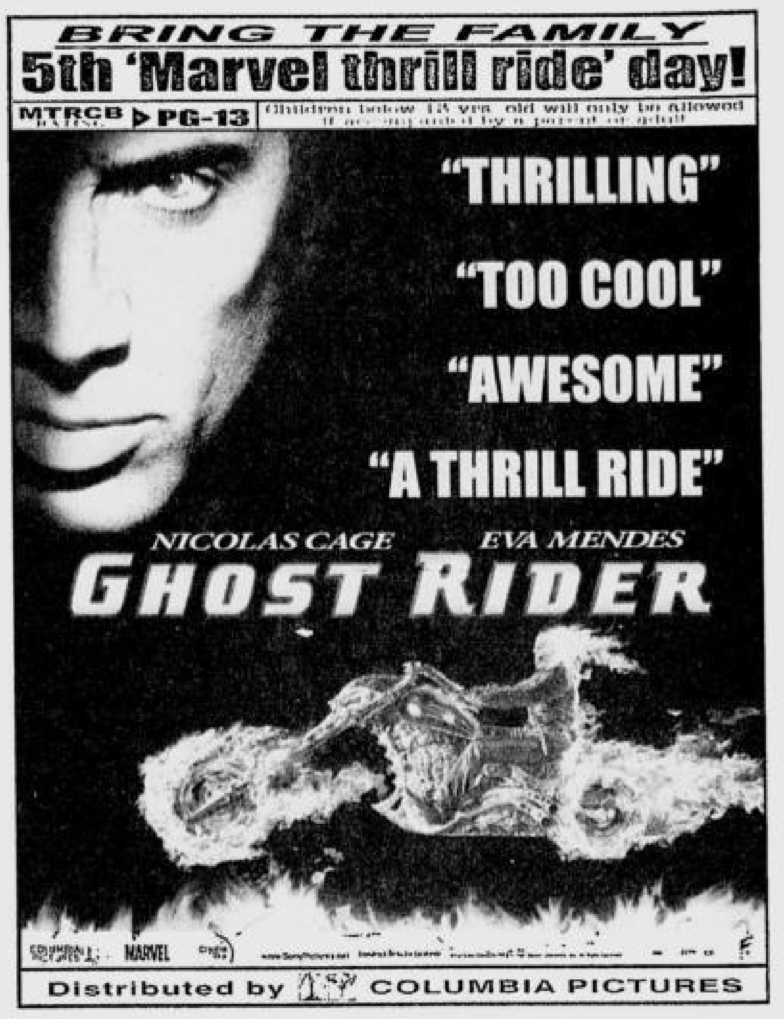
LOST FILMS OF ASIA

SEAPAVAA'S
LOST FILMS OF ASIA
Edited by Nick Deocampo
Published by Anvil Publishing, Inc.
(First launched in Canberra, Australia; Soon to be launched in New Delhi, India)

Lost films by Asia's major filmmakers - Japan's Yasujiro Ozu and Kenji Mizoguchi; South Korea's Woon-Kyu Na; Philippines' Lino Brocka and Gerry de Leon; among others, are contained in this valuable collection edited and introduced by one of Asia's emerging film scholars - Nick Deocampo.

Book Launching at the SPeaK Film Festival:
February 21, Wednesday
5:00 p.m.
Faculty Center, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City
For information, call:
727-1915 / 410-4545




BRING THE FAMILY
5th 'Marvel thrill ride' day!
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"THRILLING"
"TOO COOL"
"AWESOME"
"A THRILL RIDE"
NICOLAS CAGE EVA MENDES
GHOST RIDER
MARVEL
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

2ND WEEK!
MTRCB RATING R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HERO AND THE PRODUCER OF FEARLESS
CHOW YUN FAT
GONG LI
LOYALTY CAN DIVIDE
PASSION CAN DECEIVE
POWER CAN DESTROY
A ZHANG YIMOU FILM
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
www.curseofthegoldenflowermovie.com
DISTRIBUTED BY BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

GO PNB
Making a Global Imprint
ASSET MANAGEMENT SECTOR
We manage for best value.

PUBLIC AUCTION
FEBRUARY 21, 2007 • WEDNESDAY • 2:00 PM • R.F. ANICETO MANSION Plaza Burgos, 01 Mena Crisologo St., Vigan City

as much as 35% discount on lots as long as 10 years payment term

ABRA

ITEM 2 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 786.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 710.00 sqm.
Lot No.5616 Pobalcion, Bangued
Market Value: 3,064,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 2,451,000.00

ITEM 3 - LOT
Lot Area: 181.48 sqm.
Lot No.5938 Zone 2, Bangued
Market Value: 363,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 254,000.00

ITEM 4 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 159.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 152.00 sqm.
Lot No.6200 Linasin, Bangued
Market Value: 722,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 650,000.00

ITEM 5 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 196.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 117.00 sqm.
Lot No. 70-A South Poblacion, Bucay
Market Value: 430,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 323,000.00

ITEM 6 - LOT
Lot Area: 422.00 sqm.
Sabangan, Lagangilang
Market Value: 21,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 17,000.00

ITEM 7 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 481.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 132.00 sqm.
Lot No. 3855 Towel, Banl, Luba
Market Value: 61,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 40,000.00

ITEM 8 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 5607-B Poblacion East, Pidigan
Market Value: 63,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 57,000.00

ITEM 9 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 245.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 194.00 sqm.
Lot 308-A Poblacion, Tayum
Market Value: 228,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 205,000.00

ITEM 10 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 840.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 168.00 sqm.
Lot No.5675-A Pias, Tayum
Market Value: 101,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 86,000.00

ILOCOS NORTE

ITEM 11 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 276.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 175.00 sqm.
Lot No. 4404 Gen. House, Brgy. 18, Bacarra, Ilocos Norte
Market Value: 402,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 322,000.00

ITEM 12 - LOT
Lot Area: 320.00 sqm.
Lot No. 7102 Brgy.Napu,Badoc,Ilocos Norte
Market Value: 48,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 36,000.00

ITEM 13 - LOT
Lot Area: 1,758.00 sqm.
Lot 656 Brgy 4-A Paratong, Badoc, Ilocos Norte
Market Value: 132,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 99,000.00

ITEM 14 - LOT
Lot Area: 1,500.00 sqm.
Lot No. 15472 Brgy.Rd.Brgy.Manayon,Bangui, Ilocos Norte
Market Value: 225,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 169,000.00

ITEM 15 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 432.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.00 sqm.
Lot No. 47-B Poblacion, Macadaeg St., Burgos, Ilocos Norte
Market Value: 497,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 373,000.00

ILOCOS SUR

ITEM 16 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 195.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 40.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2245-B Subec,Sta.Catalina Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 74,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 56,000.00

ITEM 17 - LOT
Lot Area: 4,704.00 sqm.
Lot 2452 & Part Of Of Lot 2281 Lintic, Banayoyo, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 84,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 67,000.00

ITEM 18 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 371.00 sqm.
Lot 1760 Guimod, Bantay, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 74,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 48,000.00

ITEM 19 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 200.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 94.00 sqm.
Tay-Ac, Bantay, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 47,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 33,000.00

ITEM 20 - LOT
Lot Area: 111.15 sqm.
Lot 133 Zone4, Poblacion, Bantay, Ilocos Sur.
Market Value: 23,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 16,000.00

ITEM 21 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 399.00 sqm.
Lot 519 Balaleng Centro, Bantay, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 160,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 128,000.00

ITEM 22 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 378.00 sqm.
Lot No. 14584 (Ass. Lot No. 039) Lipit, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 60,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 39,000.00

ITEM 23 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 6,771.00 sqm.
Lot # 3076-A(Lot # 9912) Patpata 2Nd, Candon City, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 207,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 135,000.00

ITEM 24 - LOT
Lot Area: 3,611.00 sqm.
Brgy. Road, Villarica, Candon City, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 151,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 121,000.00

ITEM 25 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 313.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 69.00 sqm.
Oaig Daya,Candon City,Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 182,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 127,000.00

ITEM 26 - LOT
Lot Area: 11,937.00 sqm.
Lot 5518 Balingaoan, Candon City, Ilocos Sur.
Market Value: 786,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 590,000.00

ITEM 27 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,622.00 sqm.
Lot 5193/5194 Balingaoan, Condon City, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 96,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 72,000.00

ITEM 28 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 123.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 65.00 sqm.
Lot No. 3239-A Quezon St., Vacunero, Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 49,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 37,000.00

ITEM 29 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,253.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 40.00 sqm.
Lot No. 9297 Brgy Rd.Pagsanaan,Barbant,Magsingal,Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 185,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 120,000.00

ITEM 30 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,379.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 96.00 sqm.
Lot No. 5224 Cor. Cortez & Silang Sts., San Lucas, Magsingal, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 497,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 373,000.00

ITEM 31 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,091.00 sqm.
Lot 5830 & 5827 Sta.Monica, Masingal, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 153,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 99,000.00

ITEM 32 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 652.00 sqm.
Lot 7466-A Sitio Labaoa, Brgy. Cagayungan, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 29,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 20,000.00

ITEM 33 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 217.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 120.00 sqm.
Lot 28947, Ass. Lot No. 052 Nat'L. Highway, Sulvec, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 338,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 304,000.00

ITEM 34 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 567.00 sqm.
Lot No. 220-B Or Ass. Lot No. 026 Sta. Lucia, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 113,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 79,000.00

ITEM 35 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 439.00 sqm.
Lot 4473 Orence, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur.
Market Value: 44,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 35,000.00

ITEM 36 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 652.00 sqm.
Lot 7466 Sitio Labao, Cagayungan, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur.
Market Value: 33,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 23,000.00

ITEM 37 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,305.00 sqm.
Lot # 3611& Lot # 4009 Rafaro, San Juan, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 105,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 68,000.00

ITEM 38 - LOT
Lot Area: 726.00 sqm.
Lot 3912 Purok Quezon, Refaro, San Juan, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 66,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 50,000.00

ITEM 39 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 550.00 sqm.
Lot 3912 Purok Quezon, Refaro, San Juan, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 28,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 21,000.00

ITEM 40 - LOT
Lot Area: 450.00 sqm.
Lot No. 27896 Brgy. Road, Refaro, San Juan, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 45,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 38,000.00

ITEM 41 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 339.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 144.00 sqm.
Lot No. 75 Bonifacio St., Poblacion, San Vicente, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 340,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 306,000.00

ITEM 42 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 795.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 70.00 sqm.
Lot No. 5302 Brgy. Road, Sta. Cruz, Sinait, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 543,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 434,000.00

ITEM 43 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 661.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 75.00 sqm.
Lot 5950 Tamurong, Sta Catalina, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 220,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 165,000.00

ITEM 44 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 298.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 48.00 sqm.
Lot No. 97 Poblacion, Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 117,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 76,000.00

ITEM 45 - LOT
Lot Area: 449.00 sqm.
Lot 8631 Tangaoan, Sta.Maria, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 27,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 19,000.00

ITEM 46 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 611.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 159.00 sqm.
Lot 11313-A Barangay Road Ampuagan,Sta.Maria,Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 69,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 52,000.00

ITEM 47 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 574.00 sqm.
Lot 3148 Vacunero, Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 129,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 116,000.00

ITEM 48 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 210.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 30.00 sqm.
Lot 531 Gomburza St.Domingo,Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 131,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 118,000.00

ITEM 49 - LOT
Lot Area: 207.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2680 Arranz St., San Julian Sur, Vigan City
Market Value: 104,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 99,000.00

ITEM 50 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,579.45 sqm.
Floor Area: 362.50 sqm.
Part Of Lot No. 5800 & 5817 Pantay Fatima, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 4,129,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 2,684,000.00

ITEM 51 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 315.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 169.00 sqm.
Lot No.7656 Raois, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 834,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 667,000.00

ITEM 52 - LOT
Lot Area: 150.00 sqm.
Lot 8081 San Julian Sur, Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Market Value: 75,000.00
Min. Bid Price : 68,000.00

ITEM 53 - LOT
Lot Area: 1,422.00 sqm.
Lot 1465-D & 1465-E Poblacion (Brgy 1) Vigan City.
Market Value: 2,065,000.00
Min. Bid Price: 1,443,000.00

✓ GUARANTEED FINANCING-FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10YRS
✓ 10% DOWN PAYMENT FOR LOTS
✓ 25% DOWN PAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES
✓ DEPOSIT PHP 25,000.00 CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK (NO DEPOSIT NO PARTICIPATION)
✓ FOR INSTALLMENT BUYERS PLS. BRING PROOF OF INCOME (ITR, CERT. OF EMPLOYMENT, BANK STATEMENT, ETC.)

Please Call PNB-AMS SALES III - Auction Team
AUCTION INQUIRY: MANILA HEAD OFFICE
TEL NOs: (02) 832-2562 | 526-3131 | 891-6040

	Locals	Cell #
JOEY	2919	0921-7112238
JAY-R	4538	0917-8878431
VON	7212	0920-6701586

NORTHERN LUZON REGIONAL DESK
(JUVY & MHEL)Tel. No. (075) 522-8746 & 515-5242
(TED) Tel. No. (072) 242-1446 & 242-0008
VIGAN Branch:-Tel. No. (077) 722-2515

PNB ACCEPTS REAL ESTATE BROKERS

PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS. PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

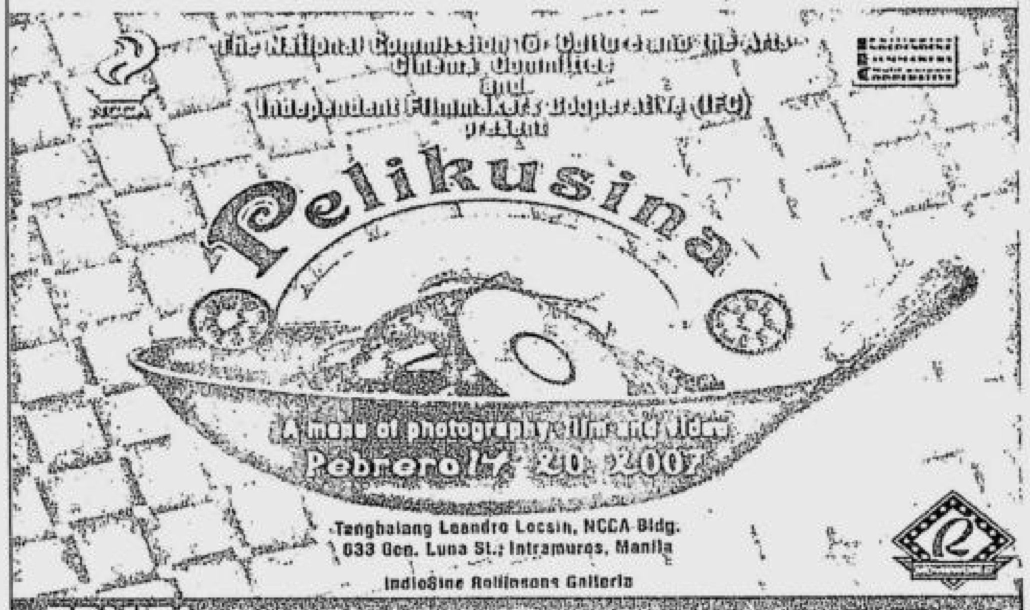
CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA Ticket Price THX:P161 131 Indie Sine:101 632-9116

1 GHOST RIDER • THX
12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20
2 GHOST RIDER
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 indieSine: ROME and JULIET
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
4 National Arts Month: PELIKUSINA
Kaming mga Talyada -1:30PM Kaming mga Talyada -6:30PM
Maximo Oliveros -4:00PM Maximo Oliveros -9:30PM
5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
7 THE FOUNTAIN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
8 THE PROMISE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
9 MUSIC and LYRICS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
10 TROIKA
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00



The National Commission for Culture and the Arts
Cinema Committee
and
Independent Filmmakers Cooperative (IFC)
present
Pelikusina
A mesa of photography, film and video
Pebrero 17-20, 2007
Tanghalang Leandro Locsin, NCCA Bldg.
633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila
IndieSine Robinsons Galleria

ERMITA Ticket Price: [illegible] 536-7809 to 12

1 GHOST RIDER 10:10 12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00
2 THE HOLIDAY 12:00 2:35 5:10
HANNIBAL RISING 7:45 10:00
3 MUSIC and LYRICS
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
4 TROIKA
10:00 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00
5 THE PROMISE
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00
6 THE MESSENGERS
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
7 THE FOUNTAIN
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 10:00

METRO EAST Ticket Price:P100 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 GHOST RIDER
1.05 3:45 6:25 9:05
2 MUSIC and LYRICS
1:20 3:55 6:30 9.05
3 THE PROMISE
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
4 GHOST RIDER
3:45 6:25 9.05
5 THE HOLIDAY 1:00 3:50
HANNIBAL RISING 6:40 9:10
6 NIGHT at the MUSEUM 12:00 2:10 4:20
APOCALYPTO 6 30 9:00
7 THE MESSENGERS
12:50 2:50 4 50 6 50 9 00
8 TROIKA
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

NOVALICHES Ticket Price:P[illegible] 936-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 TROIKA
4 MUSIC and LYRICS
5 THE MESSENGERS

PIONEER Ticket Price:P10[illegible] 687-5378

1 MUSIC and LYRICS
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
2 GHOST RIDER
1:25 3:45 6:05 8 25
3 THE PROMISE
1:05 3:30 5:55 8:20
4 THE FOUNTAIN
12:05 2.15 4:25 6:35 8:40

STA. ROSA Ticket Price:P75 / 80 (049) 837-0907

1 APOCALYPTO
2 GHOST RIDER
3 CHARLOTTE's WEB
4 THE PROMISE

LIPA Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3864 (043) 312-5870

1 THE PROMISE
2 HANNIBAL RISING
3 The CURSE of the GOLDEN FLOWER
4 NIGHT at the MUSEUM

DASMARIÑAS Ticket Price:P75 / 80 (046) 416-4332

1 THE MESSENGERS
2 GHOST RIDER
3 TROIKA
4 THE PROMISE

ANGELES Ticket Price: P 90 (045) 892-2348

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 THE HOLIDAY
4 MUSIC and LYRICS

IMUS Ticket Price:P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 THE MESSENGERS
2 THE PROMISE
3 MUSIC and LYRICS
4 GHOST RIDER
5 TROIKA
6 THE CLEANER

STARMILLS Ticket Price:P75 / 80 (045) 875-1927

1 THE CLEANER
2 THE PROMISE
3 MUSIC and LYRICS
4 THE HOLIDAY
5 GHOST RIDER
6 THE MESSENGERS

BACOLOD Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 GHOST RIDER
2 indieSine: COMPOUND
3 BABEL
4 THE PROMISE
5 THE CLEANER
6 CHARLOTTE's WEB

ILOILO Ticket Price: P60.50/67.50/70.50 (033) 338-8070

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 BABEL
4 NIGHT at the MUSEUM
5 THE HOLIDAY
6 THE CLEANER

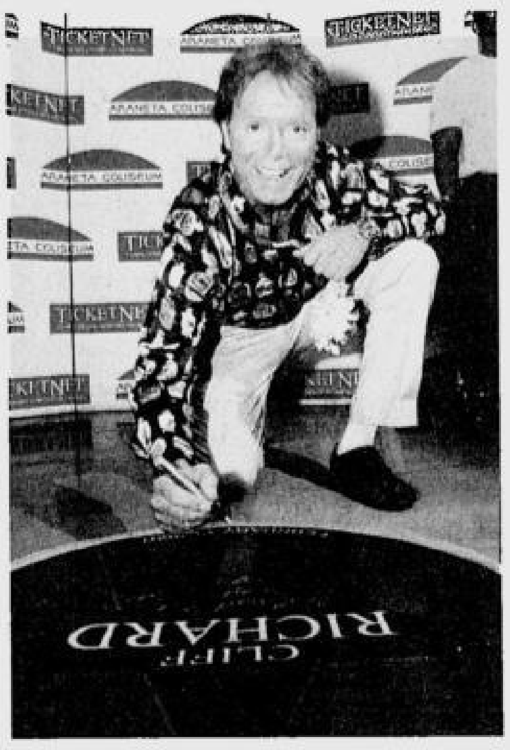
Robinsons Movieworld and Independent Filmmakers Cooperative
FEBRUARY 14 - 20, 2007
IndieSine, Robinsons Movieworld Bacolod

A stunning visual achievement. COMPOUND is a contemporary thriller that deals with the complexities of love, wealth, and fear. A perfectly unexpected and well executed ending make this a film not to be missed.
Cleveland Intl. Film Festival

"Melrose Place", as seen through the unflinching eyes of David Lynch and Mike de Leon.
Paul Daza, Philippine Daily Inquirer

mossimo
Co-sponsored by NIKON and FGI

a WILL FREDO film
COMPOUND
KILALA MO SILA



BRITISH performer Cliff Richard (above, extreme left) with (from L) British Am
Beckingham and wife Jill, and Jane Walker, founder and director of the Philippin
At left, Sir Cliff signs his star on Araneta Coliseum's Walk of Fame before his pr

PHOTOS BY AU

Sir Cliff finds time for RP cl

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

TAKE FIVE

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF ROCK 'N' ROLL, Cliff Richard was considered Britain's answer to Elvis Presley. Richard's success helped pave the way for other British musicians in the genre—including the Beatles who broke into the scene just a few years later.

Starting out as a teen singer in 1958, Richard, still a very active 66, immediately established fan bases all over the world. He became a constant presence on the pop music scene, recording and releasing several albums and hit singles in the decades that followed. Singing, songwriting and performing for several generations for almost 50 years have allowed Richard to experiment extensively with his sound and collaborate with artists like Dionne Warwick, Elton John, Olivia Newton-John and Sarah Brightman.

Packed coliseum

This wealth of experience was evident in his well-attended pre-Valentine concert at the Araneta Coliseum. Richard performed a good mix of old hits and more recent material—around 20 carefully-sequenced ballads and upbeat classics, including "Bachelor Boy," "Ocean Deep," "The Twelfth of Never," "It's All in the Game," "Summer Holiday" and "The Young Ones."

The audience consisted mostly of baby boomers who heartily cheered even Richard's anecdotes between ditties. The nostalgic event ran for two hours.

As part of his Philippine visit, Richard also made an appearance at an invitational cocktail party the next evening at Forbes Park in Makati, for the benefit of the Philippine Christian Foundation.

No sacrifice at all

"My wife Jill suggested this," said British Ambassador Peter Beckingham. "She's a fan, but she's also keen to make some money for [the foundation]. Sir Cliff (Richard was knighted in 1995) very kindly agreed to come. Tonight's guests are a mixture of Filipino and British fans, like Jose Mari Chan and members of the British business community. Everyone's donating something; they paid a fee to come. Sir Cliff is also meeting a group of British surgeons, who are here to help children with handicaps."

"It's no sacrifice at all [for me] to be here," Richard told the guests. "Your support ... will possibly help a few lives to change for the better."

School in Tondo

British national Jane Walker, PCF founder, thanked Richard, especially since, "this is the first time Sir Cliff heard about us." The foundation hopes to buildi a school in Tondo."

How helpful is being a celebrity in charity work?

I like doing this sort of thing. Jane says it's just a small charity. But the w
ness that's taking place
many small charities. Fo
in privileged positions, i
come and help.

**How does it feel to p
again?**

It was wonderful. Th
been 23 years since I w
they'd remember me,
where they thought I wa

**What can you say abo
and now?**

I didn't see any cha
thusiastic] as ever. Th
been on my radar. Bu
don't send you somev
get [a date/slot]. Th
gone by. I've told my
write down certain p
itized. I think that t
prioritized.

What's next for you aft

From here I'm perfo
South Africa, Holland,
Norway, Sweden and De

When will you be back

It won't take another

No one is banned from BigSkyMind

FEEDBACK

From: Shakira Baterina Villa and Cynthia Angelica Malong (sharivilla@yahoo.com):

This letter is in connection with Pocholo Concepcion's article, "Friends sing for Ely," which came out in [the INQUIRER's] Entertainment Section on Feb. 9, 2007. We wish to clarify points and untruths which, the author said, took place at our establishment, BigSkyMind.

BigSkyMind has been in operation for the last seven years. Our regular patrons come from various fields and businesses, including the visual arts and music. Our clients and friends are considered family. We know them by their first names; we even know the dates of their last visit. Among those regulars who became a dear friend and family to us was the late Noel Garcia (formerly the Eraserheads' keyboardist) who passed away in December 2006. His sudden demise brought tremendous sorrow to the BigSkyMind community—we gathered everyone and offered our venue to help raise funds for his bereaved family.

When news of Ely Buendia's heart attack broke, we were deeply concerned. Ely and the Mongols have previously played in BigSky. Yani Yuzon (guitarist for Ely's current band, Pupil) is also a regular customer and even celebrated his birthday at our place last year. Ely, his wife, the members of Pupil and even of the Eraserheads have always been a part of the BigSky family.

Hence, we are extremely upset that Mr. Concepcion, in his article, insinuated and/or stated as fact: 1) that Pupil is banned from BigSkyMind; 2) that the alleged banning led, or was a contributing factor, to Ely's stroke. 3) that Dianne Ventura-Buendia, Ely's wife and co-manager, doused water on one of BigSkyMind's owners.

May we now set the record straight, for the benefit and enlightenment of your readers:

1) Pupil, Ely Buendia's present band, was never banned from our establishment, as there's been absolutely no reason for it.

2) No such incident as dousing of water on anyone intentionally, or to cause a commotion, ever happened. There may have been a minor, might we say inconsequential, incident six years ago that happened between Dianne and one of us near the bar area but that was not serious as to merit any sort of banning on anyone. Again, she did not douse water on one of us.

3) Ely, Dianne and members of Pupil continue to visit BigSkyMind when their schedule permits it, and they have always been welcome.

We cannot comprehend how, as Mr. Concepcion theo rized, an episode in our establishment that we deem highly insignificant and which happened a good six years ago could lead to Ely Buendia's heart attack.

We find Mr. Concepcion's article misleading and baseless, especially since he dragged BigSkyMind into the picture. We have always maintained a low profile. We never publicize our events, as we simply want to remain a pleasant place for friends to go to after work, where they can simply feel at home.

We are seeking your help with the real facts and clarifications that we have stated here.

Thank you for your letter. We wish to straighten out some things as well:

Ely Buendia and Dianne Ventura, on Friday, Feb. 9—the day the article came out—called the attention of INQUIRER Entertainment to these very points that you have raised. We immediately proceeded to discuss the form and content of a clarification story which, we then agreed, would be published the following Monday, Feb. 12.

But they changed the terms a few hours later, to include a point that would have the INQUIRER identifying Ventura as Buendia's "legal wife" (term hers)—contradicting a prior document naming Buendia as a contracting party in a marriage register dated Dec. 2, 1992.

Ventura earlier offered to send a copy of their own marriage contract. The INQUIRER has not received it. The complete transcript of an SMS exchange with Ventura and Buendia—after we agreed on the clarification—will further show how we hit the snag, thus the unnecessary delay.

This section is grateful that your letter has covered Ventura's issues, except her grievance in reference to their marital status. As the initial arrangement had fallen through, the INQUIRER invited the couple five days ago, through Ventura's co-manager, Day Cabuhat, to lodge a formal complaint with the INQUIRER Readers Advocate. They have yet to reply. We reiterate the invitation. —Ed.

* * *

FROM Ejiev (ejiev_2000@yahoo.com), Lot 11B Blk. 3 Sampaguita St., Don Juan Bayview Subd. Sucat, Muntinlupa City:

Hi!. Ms. Carvajal's column today, Feb. 8, just shows that she is a good and professional writer. A lot of writers will not know how to deal with not-so-happy reactions about what she wrote, but she manages to make the situation as light and as positive as she can. It also shows how good a person she is—she never fails to remember the things other people have done for her and her mom. She's one of the very few celebrities *na marunong tumanaw ng utang na loob.*

It is definitely refreshing to know that the Megastar has a big heart to be able to extend moral and whatever support to others who need them. Hats off to the Megastar! Your star will shine brightly forever for you know how to share your blessings with others.

And since it's the love month, the KC and Lino story is a *kilig* factor for us fans. And knowing the Cayetano and Cuneta families' background, it is nice to think that two popular personalities will be together this Valentine. *Bagay sila, di ba?* Both with politics and show biz blood. We are definitely looking forward to reading more about them.

And to you, Ms. Dolly, you make show biz news interesting, not only to gossip about but to learn a thing or two from. More power!

* * *

From Tin (tintin@yahoo.com):

Dear Dolly Anne,

If you owe Sharon some, you could have just kept the photo of KC Concepcion and Lino Cayetano to yourself, out of respect. People want to see KC, that's for sure. but she is not some public property. How low [would] you stoop for a story? You often print stories just for the sake of *tsismis*. Sharon should [ignore you] next time you need her help.

* * *

From Marvin Isidro (never@home.com), Australia:

For NUT: The line, "What we've got here is failure to communicate," is from the "Cool Hand Luke," not "Hud"—though both movies starred Paul Newman.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ıbassador Peter
e Christian Foundation.
-Valentine concert.
GUST DE LA CRUZ AND RODEL ROTONI

ıarity

hole of the charitable busi-
in the world is made up of
people like myself who are
should be nice and easy to

erform in the Philippines

e audience was terrific. It's
s last here--I didn't know if
cause I've been to places
dead!

ıt your Filipino fans, then

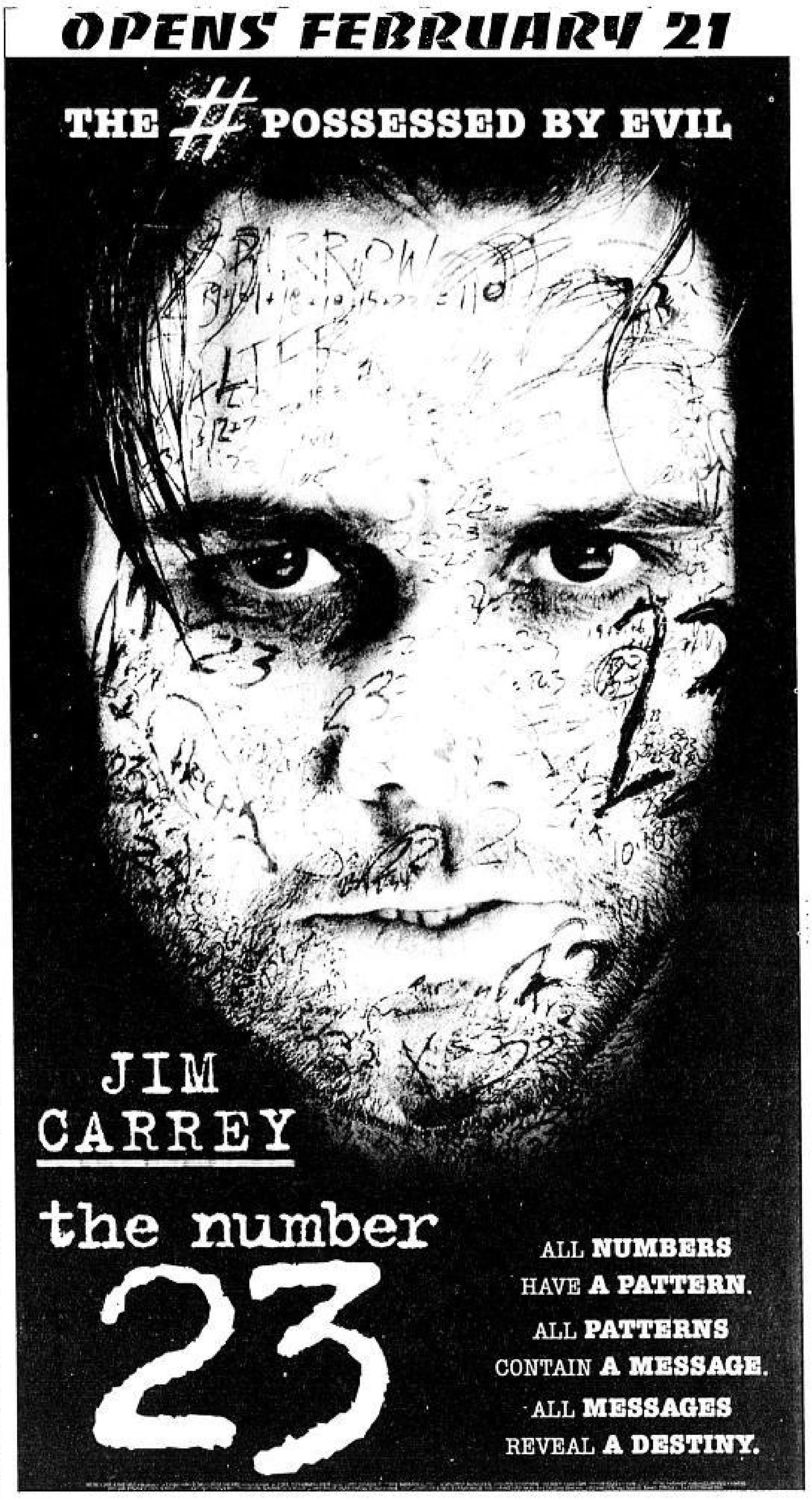
nge. They're just as [en-
e Philippines has always
sometimes ... promoters
where because they can't
en suddenly, years have
promoter that I'm gonna
ices that should be prior-
e Philippines should be

r Manila?

ming in Tokyo, Sri Lanka,
Belgium, Germany, France,
nmark.

3 years, that's for sure!

OPENS FEBRUARY 21
FROM WALDEN MEDIA, THE PRODUCER OF "THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA"
AND PETER JACKSON'S WETA LTD.
THE SPECIAL EFFECTS COMPANY THAT GAVE YOU "THE LORD OF THE RINGS" & "KING KONG"
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA


OPENS FEBRUARY 21
THE # POSSESSED BY EVIL
JIM CARREY
the number 23
ALL NUMBERS HAVE A PATTERN.
ALL PATTERNS CONTAIN A MESSAGE.
ALL MESSAGES REVEAL A DESTINY.

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 MUSIC & LYRICS	2 GHOST RIDER	3 THE FOUNTAIN	4 THE PROMISE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE FOUNTAIN	2 GHOST RIDER	3 THX GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE HISTORY BOYS	5 THE MESSENGERS	6 MUSIC & LYRICS	7 THE PROMISE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 GHOST RIDER	2 MUSIC & LYRICS		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX MUSIC & LYRICS GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE HISTORY BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE FOUNTAIN GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 MUSIC & LYRICS		
	3 THE FOUNTAIN	4 THE HOLIDAY	5 THE PROMISE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 GHOST RIDER	2 MUSIC & LYRICS	3 THE PROMISE	4 THE MESSENGERS
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE PROMISE	2 THE FOUNTAIN		
	3 THE MESSENGERS	4 GHOST RIDER	5 MUSIC & LYRICS	

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
YOU GOT ME movie promo tour feat. Sam Milby, Toni Gonzaga, Zanjo Marudo & other guest stars February 16, 2007	Auto Focus '07 People's Choice Awards February 17, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	**MARKET! MARKET!**
Microsoft Vista Launching February 16, 2007	The Philippine International Jazz & Arts Festival February 20, 2007

GREENBELT
Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peak presents: Collection of Ana Rocha
February 7 to 18, 2007

Greenbelt's Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents SONG & DANCE
at REP's Globe Theater - February 9 to March 4, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Streams from the Mainland (six shows)
February 15 to March 27, 2007
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

Ayala CINEMAS
OPENS FEBRUARY 21 exclusively AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
FROM ACADEMY AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR KEVIN MACDONALD
THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND
FOREST WHITAKER JAMES McAVOY KERRY WASHINGTON
WINNER GOLDEN GLOBE® BEST ACTOR FOREST WHITAKER
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
FOX SEARCHLIGHT
glorietta
GREENBELT

Ayala Malls

Living and Loving it at MARKET! MARKET!

Feb. 11
With You...MYMP
Activity Center. 6pm

Bazaar! Bazaar!
Feb. 12-18
Valentine Bazaar! Bazaar!
Central Plaza

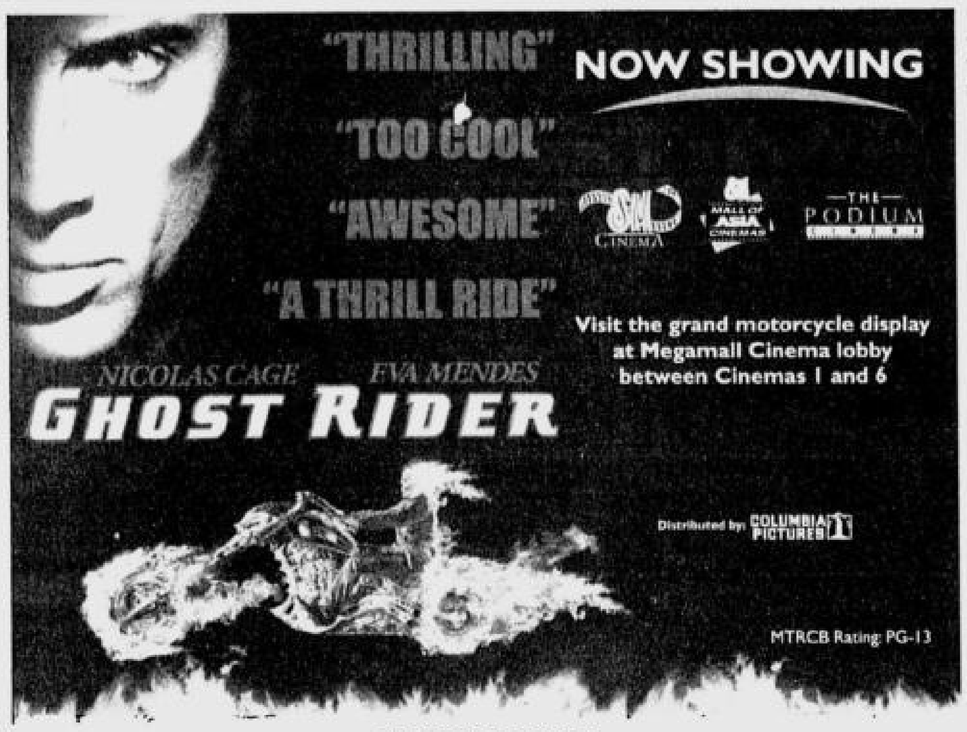
Feb. 10-18
Treats for Two Cinema Promo
For every 2 tickets purchased, get a chance to pick a prize

Feb. 20
The Philippine International Jazz and Arts Festival
Activity Center, 5pm to 9pm

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

moviettime
SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9999*
SHOWTIME
Your life as a movie
BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS



NOW SHOWING
SM CINEMA · MALL OF ASIA CINEMAS · THE PODIUM
Visit the grand motorcycle display at Megamall Cinema lobby between Cinemas 1 and 6
Distributed by: COLUMBIA PICTURES
MTRCB Rating: PG-13

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATER
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
1:00PM 3:30PM 6:00PM 8:30PM
Matinee Fee- P200 Primetime Fee- P250
T-REX IN 3D
11:45AM
Admission Fee- P200
1 MUSIC AND LYRICS
2 GHOST RIDER/ CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 THE MESSENGER
4 THE FOUNTAIN
5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
6 THE PROMISE/ THE HOLIDAY
PREMIERE CINEMA
THE PROMISE
CENTERSTAGE
GHOST RIDER
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
GHOST RIDER
CINEMA 2
MUSIC AND LYRICS
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 GHOST RIDER
2 CATCH AND RELEASE
3 THE FOUNTAIN
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
5 THE MESSENGER
6 THE HOLIDAY
7 GHOST RIDER
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
9 AGENT X44
10 THE HOLIDAY
11 THE PROMISE
12 THE PROMISE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 THE PROMISE
2 THE MESSENGER
3 GHOST RIDER
4 GHOST RIDER
5 THE HOLIDAY
6 MUSIC AND LYRICS
7 THE FOUNTAIN
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
9 THE PROMISE
10 THE PROMISE
11 BABEL
12 THE CLEANER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 THE PROMISE
2 THE CLEANER
3 GHOST RIDER
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
6 THE MESSENGER
7 GHOST RIDER
8 THE PROMISE
9 MUSIC AND LYRICS
10 AGENT X44
11 ROB-B-HOOD
12 CHARLOTTE'S WEB

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 THE PROMISE
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
5 THE MESSENGER
6 THE CLEANER
7 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
8 AGENT X44
9 THE HOLIDAY
10 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 GHOST RIDER
4 THE PROMISE
5 THE MESSENGER
6 THE PROMISE

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 THE PROMISE
2 THE FOUNTAIN
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 GHOST RIDER
5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
6 THE CLEANER
7 THE HOLIDAY
8 THE MESSENGER
9 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 MUSIC AND LYRICS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 GHOST RIDER
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
5 THE MESSENGER
6 GHOST RIDER
7 THE FOUNTAIN
8 THE HOLIDAY
9 THE PROMISE
10 THE PROMISE
11 AGENT X44
12 THE CLEANER

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 THE MESSENGER
2 THE PROMISE
3 TENACIOUS D
4 GHOST RIDER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE PROMISE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 THE MESSENGER
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 MUSIC AND LYRICS

moviettime exclusive presents
CATCH AND RELEASE
Now Showing at SM Cinema North Edsa
Distributed by Columbia Pictures
MTRCB Rating: PG-13

SM CITY DACOOR (046)417-3868
1 ROB-B-HOOD
2 THE PROMISE
3 GHOST RIDER
4 THE MESSENGER
5 GHOST RIDER
6 THE PROMISE
7 MUSIC AND LYRICS
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 THE HOLIDAY
2 GHOST RIDER
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 THE MESSENGER
5 THE PROMISE
6 THE PROMISE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 THE MESSENGER
4 THE HOLIDAY

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 THE PROMISE
4 CHARLOTTE'S WEB

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE MESSENGER
3 THE HOLIDAY
4 THE CLEANER
5 MUSIC AND LYRICS
6 THE PROMISE

SM CIY LIPA (043) 756-7925
1 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 THE PROMISE
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 CHARLOTTE'S WEB

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 THE PROMISE
2 SHAOLIN VS EVIL DEAD
3 THE RETURN
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE MESSENGER
3 THE HOLIDAY
4 THE PROMISE

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 THE PROMISE
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 THE HOLIDAY
4 CHARLOTTE'S WEB

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
2 THE MESSENGER
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 BABEL
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE CLEANER
4 MUSIC AND LYRICS
5 THE HOLIDAY
6 THE MESSENGER
7 THE PROMISE
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 BABEL
2 RESERVED
3 THE CLEANER
4 THE PROMISE
5 GHOST RIDER
6 THE HOLIDAY
7 RESERVED
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 GHOST RIDER
2 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE MESSENGER
5 BLOOD DIAMOND
6 BABEL

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 GHOST RIDE
2 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE MESSENGER

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SPORTSTIME
EXCLUSIVES

PREMIERE SCREENING FEBRUARY 19
Witness it atll these SM Cinemas:
Megamall • North EDSA • Southmall
Mall of ASIA • Manila • San Lazaro
Fairview • Centerpoint
(P300 Reserved • P250 Guaranteed)
Cebu • Pampanga • Clark
(P200 Reserved • P150 Guaranteed)
Davao
(P150 Reserved • P120 Guaranteed)
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
5th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) GHOSTRIDER
2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DOLBY) MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 (DOLBY) CHARLOTTE'S WEB
THE HOLIDAY
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) THE FOUNTAIN

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC & LYRICS
3 THE PROMISE
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7286150
3 GHOST RIDER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE PROMISE
5 TROIKA

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433994
1 THE PROMISE
2 TROIKA
3 GHOST RIDER
4 APOCALYPTO

THEATRES
[illegible]
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 THE PROMISE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 THE PROMISE
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DTS) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 THE FOUNTAIN
5 THE HOLIDAY
6 GHOST RIDER
7 MUSIC & LYRICS
APOCALYPTO / HANNIBAL RISING
9 THE MESSENGERS
10 THE PROMISE

Blue Wave MALL ANNEXON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) THE PROMISE
2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DOLBY) MUSIC & LYRICS
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) APOCALYPTO
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 MUSIC & LYRICS
5 TROIKA

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE PROMISE
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 TROIKA
APOCALYPTO/NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 THE PROMISE
2 GHOST RIDER
3 TROIKA

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)
1 GHOST RIDER
2 KAMASUTRA-3

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 MUSIC & LYRICS
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE HOLIDAY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 THE PROMISE
2 ERAGON

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE HOLIDAY
GHOST RIDER
2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DOLBY) MUSIC & LYRICS
4 (DOLBY) THE FOUNTAIN

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 APOCALYPTO
2 THE PROMISE
3 GHOST RIDER
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 THE PROMISE
3 BLOOD DIAMOND

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 THE PROMISE
2 BLOOD CHOCOLATE
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM/DECK THE HALLS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 APOCALYPTO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 THE PROMISE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 LITTLE CHILDREN
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 TROIKA
2 ROOM SERVICE
3 KISKISAN
4 APOCALYPTO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 APOCALYPTO
2 TATLONG BARAHA
3 THE PROMISE
4 PARAISO
5 GHOST RIDER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 HANNIBAL RISING
4 THE PROMISE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 LITTLE CHILDREN
2 TUKSO SI CHARITO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

PAUL Williams and Dennis Lambert, recent Manila visitors

The spunk and spirit of Williams and Lambert

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

IT DIDN'T MATTER that they looked past their prime.

Dennis Lambert and Paul Williams, two American songwriters who hit their peak in the 1970s, displayed enough spunk and spirit during a back-to-back concert that brought delight to a Valentine's Day crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

REVIEW

First time

Not a few were surprised to hear that Lambert was performing live for the first time, since the 1971 release of his solo album, "Bags & Things," which yielded classic pop hits like "Ashes to Ashes" and "Of All the Things."

What probably caused him to shun the concert stage was that he became more successful as a songwriter/producer for other artists (Four Tops, Hall & Oates, Jefferson Starship, among others), as well as a sought-after tunesmith for film and TV soundtracks.

Nevertheless, the show he presented at the Big Dome provided an opportunity to rediscover all the stuff he was involved in behind the scene.

It helped that many in the audience came of age in the '70s, and they all welcomed hearing "Rhinestone Cowboy" (recorded by Glenn Campbell), "She's Gone" (Hall & Oates), "Baby Come Back" (Player) and "Sara" (Jefferson Starship).

Lower pitch

Lambert brought his own keyboards and sang with much enthusiasm, even if there were moments when he couldn't sing in the original pitch—which was forgivable given his age and considering that these were songs not normally associated with him.

Also forgiven was the absence of a band, because the presence of top session musician Rudy Lozano was enough to fill in the rhythm and lead guitar parts amid the prerecorded backing tracks that Lambert arranged.

In any case, he came across effectively in "Ain't No Woman Like the One I've Got" (written for the Four Tops) and the Marvin Gaye-Jackie Wilson tribute, "Night Shift" (co-written with the Commodores).

Interesting was the story on why he wrote "Ashes to Ashes," a bittersweet reminiscence of places being torn down and losing a part of one's self. "Joni Mitchell captured it best," Lambert said by way of intro, "when she wrote the lines 'They paved paradise/Put up a parking lot.'" (He was referring to Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi," which had a similar theme to "Ashes to Ashes.")

Lambert closed his act with "Of All the Things," a song that has been covered to death by lots of Pinoy artists. Hearing it for the first time live from the original composer and vocalist sent some couples cooing into each other's ear.

And by the time Williams strode on stage, these same couples were ready to sing out loud.

The opening number, "Just An Old Fashioned Love Song," had Williams moving in such sprightly manner that belied his senior-citizen age. Surely he didn't seem like 66.

But he played around the verses in "Won't Last A Day Without You," "Save Me A Dream," "Evergreen" and several other tunes in his treasure trove of chart-topping, award-winning hits—the way a seasoned performer would express insight or wisdom gained from a well-lived life.

Loud cheering

Hilarious was his reason for writing "Rainy Days and Mondays," which reminded him of his mother who gave encouragement during his struggling days as an actor and songwriter.

There was loud cheering when Williams recounted how he wrote a song for a bank TV commercial targeting newlyweds. "It had no chance of being noticed because when I wrote it in 1971, the No. 1 song in the charts was 'In A Gadda Da Vida'," Williams said. "Not until someone with an angelic voice came along and sang it." He was talking about Karen Carpenter and "We've Only Just Begun."

Williams confessed to having been an alcoholic, a phase he successfully overcome and documented with a new song about being vulnerable, lost and shaky.

But the most appreciated numbers also had to do with his storied past, the way he crafted poetry and moving images in such odes as "You and Me Against the World," "Evergreen," "With One More Look At You" (dedicated to his wife), and most especially the child-like wonder that made "Rainbow Connection" a very unlikely top hit and Grammy winner.

A standing ovation led Williams to ask musical director Chris Caswell, "What else have we got?"

Playing on a baby grand, Caswell quickly responded with "My Fair Share," a big hit for Seals & Crofts—thanks to a little guy with enormous talent named Paul Williams.

Climate concerts

LOS ANGELES—FORMER VICE President Al Gore announced Thursday that concerts will be held on seven continents to focus worldwide attention on the threat of climate change, with a powerhouse lineup of acts from the Red Hot Chili Peppers to Snoop Dogg to Bon Jovi.

The 24-hour event on July 7 is part of the "Save Our Selves—The Campaign for a Climate in Crisis" drive that promoters hope will trigger a broad movement to address what Gore calls a global climate crisis.

CHEER FACTOR

"In order to solve the climate crisis, we have to reach billions of people," the environmental activist, filmmaker and former presidential candidate said in a statement. "The climate crisis will only be stopped by an unprecedented and sustained global movement."

More than 100 performers are scheduled to appear, including the Foo Fighters, Lenny Kravitz, Sheryl Crow, Melissa Etheridge, John Mayer, Duran Duran, Korn, Pharrell, the Black Eyed Peas, Akon, Enrique Iglesias, Faith Hill and Tim McGraw.

Promoters said the Live Earth concerts will take place in Shanghai, China; Johannesburg, South Africa; Sydney, Australia; London and cities to be announced in Japan, Brazil and the United States.

The announcement is expected to bring a surge of publicity to Gore's pet project in the run-up to the Feb. 25 Academy Awards, his Oscar-nominated documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth."

Gore said he was thrilled that the film, on the perils of global warming, was nominated for best documentary and for best song, the latter for Etheridge's "I Need to Wake Up." *AP*

ROUNDUP

MORGAN Fairchild and Bo Derek

Screen sirens' comeback

BO DEREK AND MORGAN FAIRCHILD MAKE a comeback as bitter arch-enemies in "Fashion House," a new drama series airing weekdays, 10 p.m. on Star World.

The show uncovers the vicious schemes of characters who stop at nothing to reach the top of the fashion world.

The show airs through "Dream Satellite TV Channel 36. It is also available on SkyCable, Cablelink and Parasat.

Artist tribute

The Tribung Pilipino Foundation, in association with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, pays tribute to Tito Arevalo on Feb. 22, 4 p.m. at the Leandro Locsin Theater, NCCA Bldg., General Luna St., Intramuros, Manila.

The tribute to the late composer, lyricist, musical director and actor, dubbed "Ikaw Ang Mahal Ko, Isang Dapit Hapon ng Alaala," is in celebration of the National Arts Month this February. It is also in honor of Arevalo's birthday on March 29. He would have turned 96.

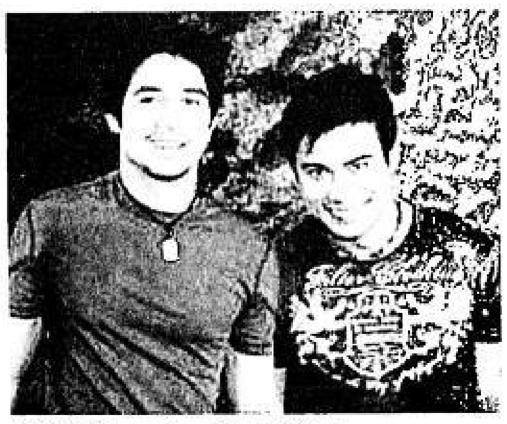
His career started in 1936 as actor in "Sa Paanan ng Krus" and as musical director in "Binatang Bukid" in 1938.

More fun time

Star City now opens its gates at 2 p.m., offering two more hours for families to enjoy 33 rides and walk-throughs, 60 games, 140 retail outlets, 100 food choices and two theaters with regular programs.

Circus de Ballet continues to entertain guests with its "Ballet meets the Big Top" presentations "Munting Anghel" and "Princess of the Moon," featuring prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde and some of the country's finest circus performers.

Ride-All-You-Can pop-tags are at P250 and entrance tickets at P60.



PIOLO Pascual and Sam Milby

Big stars' night

ABS-CBN gathers some of the country's biggest stars on March 1, 6:30 p.m. at the Shinjuku Bunka Center in Tokyo, Japan.

To be featured are Piolo Pascual and Sam Milby, with Pinoy Dream Academy Grand Dreamer Yeng Constantino, top scholars Jay-R Siaboc, Ronnie Liang, Irish Fullerton, Panky Trinidad and Chad Peralta.

To witness the event, TFC subscribers may get their special free passes from ABS-CBN Japan at 03-5414-2092.

31 competing beauties

Thirty-one beauties have been selected as official candidates in the Binibining Pilipinas Beauty Pageant.

They will be formally presented to the members of the press on Feb. 20 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza, with the coronation night set on March 3 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The winners will be crowned Binibining Pilipinas International, Binibining Pilipinas World and Binibining Pilipinas Universe and will serve as the Philippine representatives to three international beauty pageants.

Film showing

Mowelfund, in cooperation with the Manila Broadcasting Company, will stage an exhibit and film showing to showcase the glory days of local cinema on Feb. 23, 8 p.m. at the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex.

To be shown tomorrow until Feb. 20, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Aliw Theater are: "Zamboanga" (1936), with Rosa del Rosario; "Geron Busabos" (1964), with Joseph Estrada and "Perlas ng Silangan" (1969), with Fernando Poe Jr. and Susan Roces.

An exhibit of the Ani Awardees and other film icons dubbed as "Balik Tanaw" will be held at the Aliw Theater Lobby starting tomorrow until Feb. 23.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① GHOST RIDER
MTRCB PG-13
12:45, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00

② GHOST RIDER
MTRCB PG-13
12:15, 3:20, 6:25, 9:30

③ MUSIC AND LYRICS
MTRCB PG-13
11:35, 2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

④ CHARLOTTE'S WEB
MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:20, 4:40
THE HOLIDAY
MTRCB PG-13 7:00, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
THE FOUNTAIN
MTRCB PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

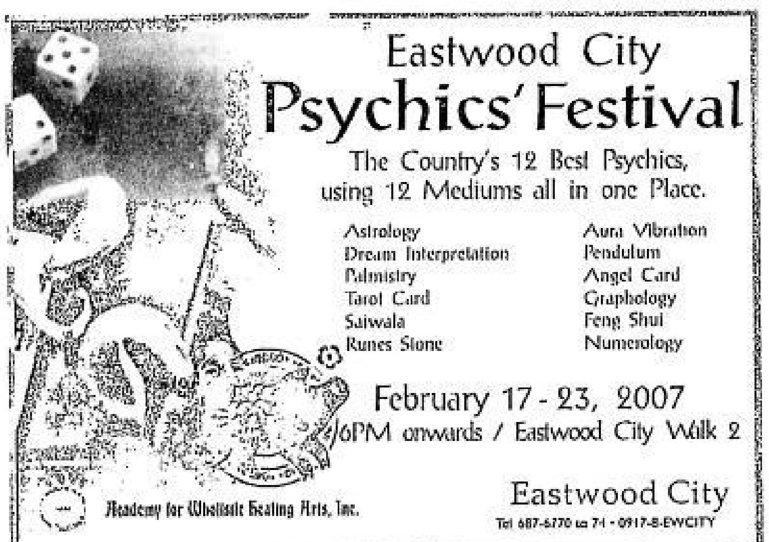
Catch the Cineplex Special

A Blockbuster Gift for all Season
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the shang.
Cinema Treats- for Cinemas 1, 2, 3, and 4
Premiere Rewards- for the Premiere Theatre

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227
for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

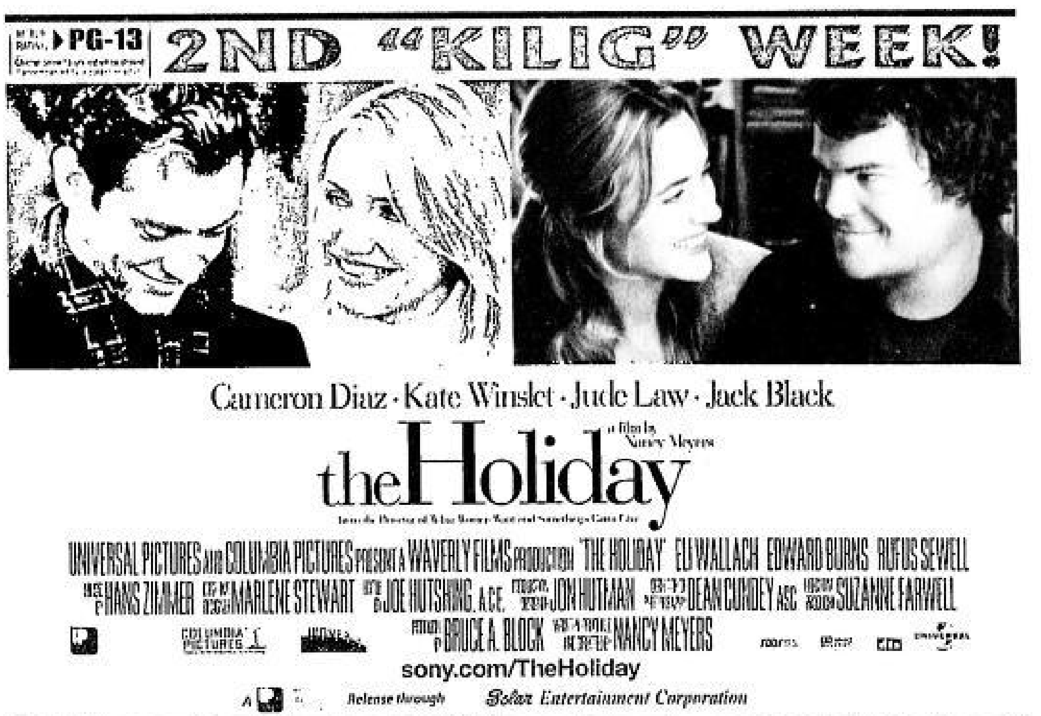
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
NO. 1 IN THE U.S.
NO. 1 IN THE PHILIPPINES!
They say children see what adults do not.
But no one listens. No one believes.
Now, no one will live.
SAM RAIMI
THE DIRECTOR OF SPIDERMAN 1, 2 & 3
& PRODUCER OF THE GRUDGE SERIES
presents
THE MESSENGERS
NOW SHOWING

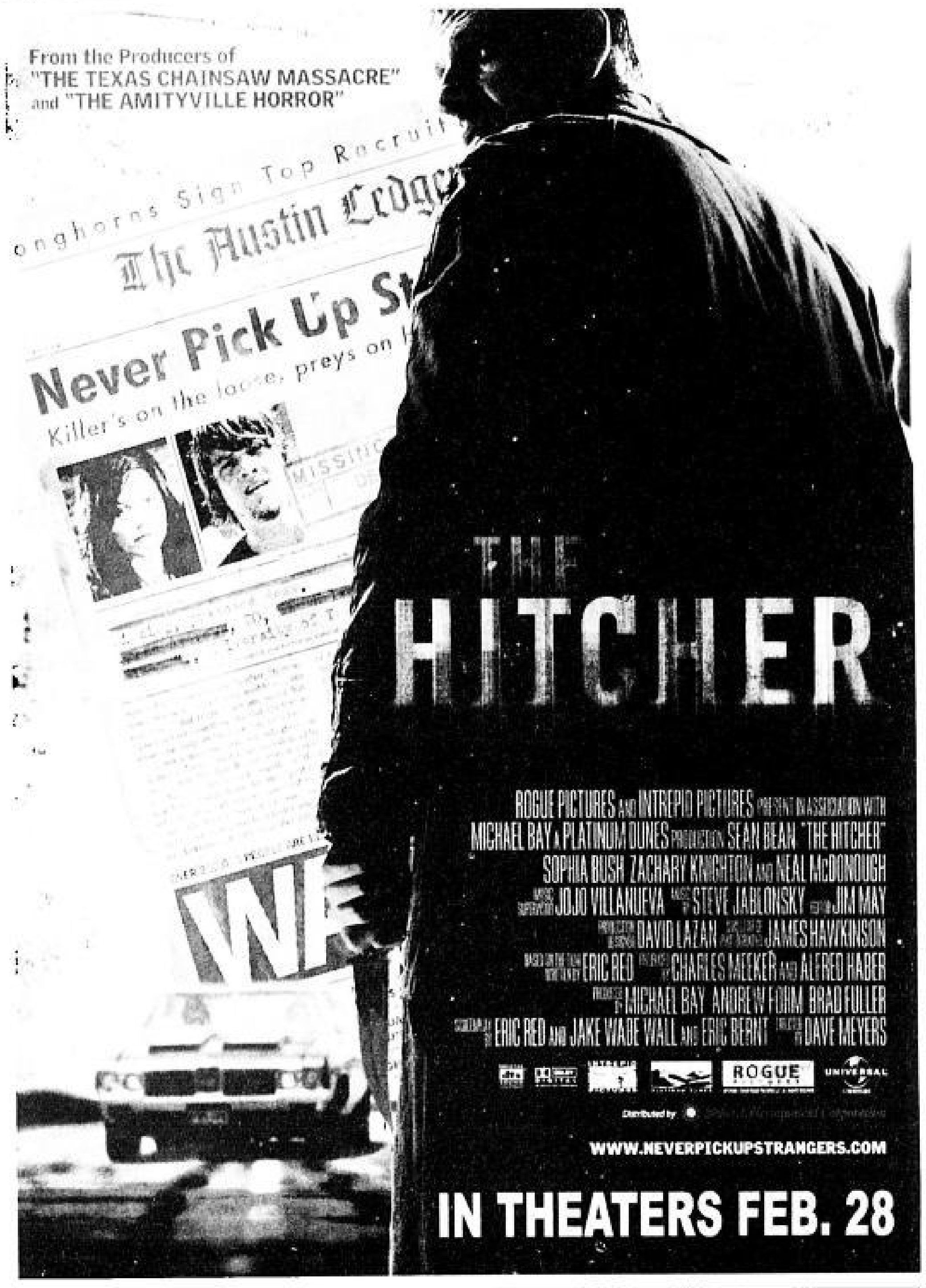

Eastwood City
Psychics' Festival
The Country's 12 Best Psychics, using 12 Mediums all in one Place.
Astrology
Dream Interpretation
Palmistry
Tarot Card
Saiwala
Runes Stone
Aura Vibration
Pendulum
Angel Card
Graphology
Feng Shui
Numerology
February 17 - 23, 2007
6PM onwards / Eastwood City Walk 2
Academy for Wholistic Healing Arts, Inc.
Eastwood City
Tel 687-6770 to 71 - 0917-8-EWCITY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 THE HOLIDAY 2:20, 5:20 PG-13 | GHOST RIDER 8:20, 11:25 PG-13
2 GHOST RIDER 1:40, 4:45, 7:50, 10:55 PG-13
3 MUSIC & LYRICS 12:55, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:00 PG-13
4 THE FOUNTAIN 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:50 PG-13

MTRCB ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
EPIC MOVIE
We Know It's Big. We Measured.
OPENS FEBRUARY 21


PG-13
2ND "KILIG" WEEK!
Cameron Diaz · Kate Winslet · Jude Law · Jack Black
a film by Nancy Meyers
the Holiday
UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENT A WAVERLY FILMS PRODUCTION "THE HOLIDAY" ELI WALLACH EDWARD BURNS RUFUS SEWELL
HANS ZIMMER MARLENE STEWART JOE HUTSHING, A.C.E. JON HUTMAN DEAN CUNDEY ASC SUZANNE FARWELL
BRUCE A. BLOCK NANCY MEYERS
sony.com/TheHoliday
Release through Solar Entertainment Corporation


From the Producers of
"THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE"
and "THE AMITYVILLE HORROR"
The Austin Ledger
Never Pick Up St
Killer's on the loose, preys on
THE HITCHER
ROGUE PICTURES AND INTREPID PICTURES PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH MICHAEL BAY & PLATINUM DUNES PRODUCTION SEAN BEAN "THE HITCHER"
SOPHIA BUSH ZACHARY KNIGHTON AND NEAL McDONOUGH
JOJO VILLANUEVA STEVE JABLONSKY JIM MAY
DAVID LAZAN JAMES HAWKINSON
ERIC RED CHARLES MEEKER AND ALFRED HABER
MICHAEL BAY ANDREW FORM BRAD FULLER
ERIC RED AND JAKE WADE WALL AND ERIC BERNT DAVE MEYERS
ROGUE
UNIVERSAL
WWW.NEVERPICKUPSTRANGERS.COM
IN THEATERS FEB. 28

ARANETA CENTER

Gateway Ali Mall Farmers Plaza

SPRING FILM FESTIVAL 2007
In celebration of the Lunar Chinese New Year
15-18 February 2007
Gateway Cineplex
Araneta Center

SPRING FILM FESTIVAL 2007
LAST DAY TODAY
Gateway Cineplex*10
www.gatewaymall.com
WITH FULL STADIUM SEATING
& 10 LUXURIOUS CINEMAS

For reservations, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & aranetacenter.net

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
Gateway Cineplex*10
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

SPRING FILM FESTIVAL 2007
MONKEY KING 1:00 / 4:00
XANDA 9:00
I NOT STUPID 1:00 / 9:00
LITTLE RED FLOWERS 6:30
SHANGHAI DREAMS 3:15
SUNFLOWER 6:00

GHOST RIDER 12:00 / 1:55 / 2:30 / 4:25 / 5:00 / 6:55 / 7:30 / 9:25 / 10:00
MUSIC & LYRICS 12:15 / 2:35 / 4:55 / 7:15 / 9:50
THE PROMISE 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
THE FOUNTAIN 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
APOCALYPTO 3:50 / 9:35
THE HOLIDAY 1:00 / 6:45
THE MESSENGERS 1:00 / 5:20 / 9:40
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2:55 / 7:15

Platinum Cinema
MUSIC & LYRICS 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5

1 THE PROMISE 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
2 GHOST RIDER 12:55 / 3:25 / 5:55 / 8:25
3 MUSIC & LYRICS 1:05 / 3:25 / 5:45 / 8:05
4 TROIKA 12:10 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30
5 HANNIBAL RISING 1:15 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:45
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

Gateway
gatewaymall.com.ph
Chinese Bazaar
FEBRUARY 16 TO 25 • LEVEL 4
FEATURING AUTHENTIC CHINESE ANTIQUES, DELICACIES, FURNITURE
& THE RENOWNED IMELDA COLLECTION OF JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES
FENG SHUI FORECASTS WITH MARITES ALEN • TODAY / 11AM

Fil-Am among AI's top 24

From page G1

stood."

Jim is one guy who is likely not going to be misunderstood. On a spiritual quest over the years, he seems especially attuned to himself and the universe in this recent interview. He talked articulately at length about consciousness, enlightenment and quoted from "The Power of Now" by **Eackhart Tolle**, a guru and writer on contemporary spirituality.

We thought Jim's long hair was for a movie role but he told us it wasn't. When a colleague offered that perhaps the actor was in his **Jackson Browne** phase, he chuckled and said, "Wow, that's quite a reference. I accept that." In "The Number 23," Jim plays a man who believes destiny is taunting him with mysterious links to the number 23 and therefore increasingly shows a darker side. But he also shows a sexy side to him in this movie that also stars **Virginia Madsen** and **Danny Huston.**

We were not aware of the "23 Enigma" until this movie came along. Jim himself has long been intrigued by this belief that all events and incidents are somehow connected to the number 23. Some examples are: humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes; there are 23 letters in the Latin alphabet; it takes 23 seconds for blood to circulate throughout the human body; the Mayans thought the world's end is on Dec. 23, 2012 (add 20, 1 and 2 and you get 23).

Jim, always a game interviewee, discussed about some serious stuff, but there was always that bemused twinkle in his eyes.

You show a sexy side in this movie. How comfortable were you in showing that side?

A sense of humor is a defense mechanism I try to hide sometimes so it was a little confronting to reveal that (sexy) side. It was a lot of fun though to assume that character because it is a side of myself. I have people in my life who go, gosh, if they only knew who you are (laughing). Jenny is always telling me, gosh, it (the secret about his sexy side) is all over when this movie comes out or something like that. It's embarrassing. Obviously, I am not a crazy wacko when I go home. I try to be attractive for my mate so I do have that side of myself. It is really fun to explore that side of things.

Joel told us that you seem to be very happy at this stage in your life.

I've gotten to a place—call it awakening or whatever you want to call it. I've been painting and all of these things are blossoming. I ice-skate every week now—I'm completely addicted. It makes me feel like I'm 10 years old. I get out there with a hockey puck and a stick and I go mental. That's a new thing that I love in my life.

And you are also happy in your relationship with (actress) Jenny McCarthy. What are some of the things that you both like to do and share?

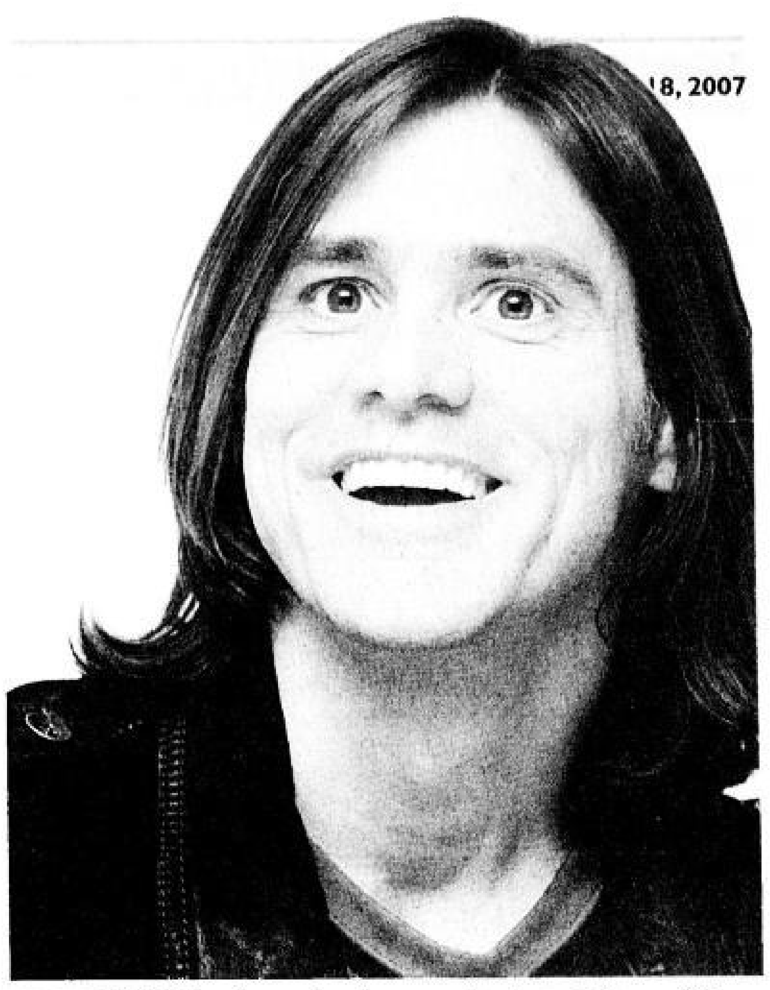
I don't want to reveal too much of the details of what we do together but it's hot. Let's just say that (laughter). Steamy. It feels very good to be with Jenny because I feel that I'm whole with her. She's a part of my life now. She has been very encouraging to all the things that are important to me. I am very encouraging to things that are important to her. She's just a wonderful spirit who has a lot more depth than people would ever know.

What do you do to stay sexy for her?

Do I have to give you a sex education lesson (laughter)? Please her first. That's horrible. I shouldn't have said that (laughter). It will be everywhere now.

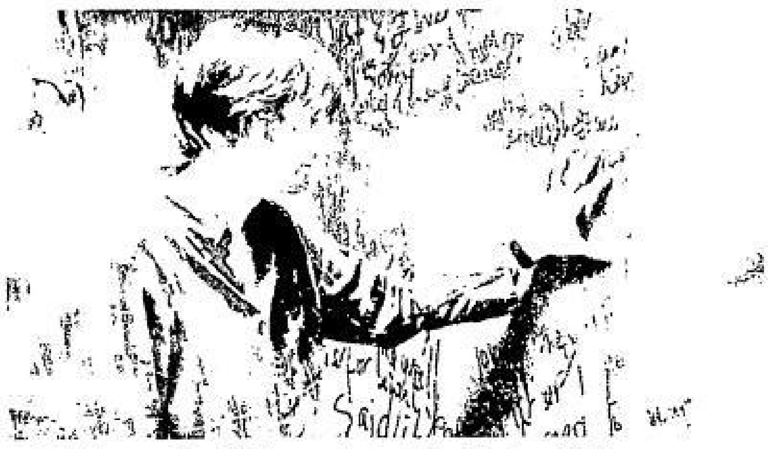
How did you reach this level of enlightenment or contentment in your life?

It has been a long journey of trying to find something that made me happy—and show business and fame was one way. Now, this is all fun for me because I was lucky enough, in a fame-obsessed society, to actually get fame and wealth. So that I could cross those off the list that would fulfill and define me.



JIM CARREY: "It has been a long journey of trying to find something that made me happy."

The funny part is, I am not a master of anything. I'm still a student and I still get caught up in ego. I still get mad and I still get "un-centered." But I am at a place where I understand the truth. The truth is, there's nowhere you have to go or nothing you have to get. You already have everything you need. People go, "I feel I need to fill myself up." They start with drugs, alcohol and stealing fast cars. But in the first place, there is no hole to fill. Something or someone made us believe that there was a hole to be filled. That's the answer. That's where I'm living. It feels good to me.

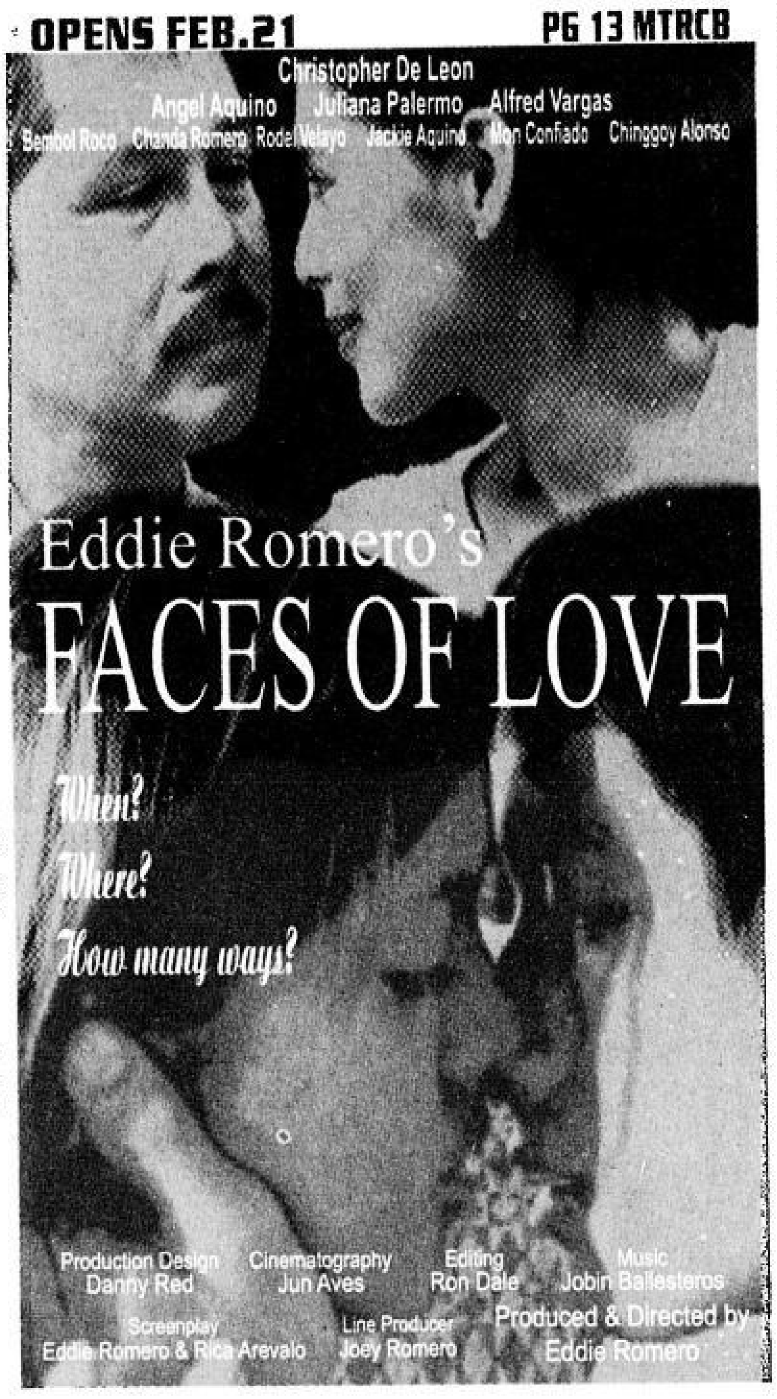


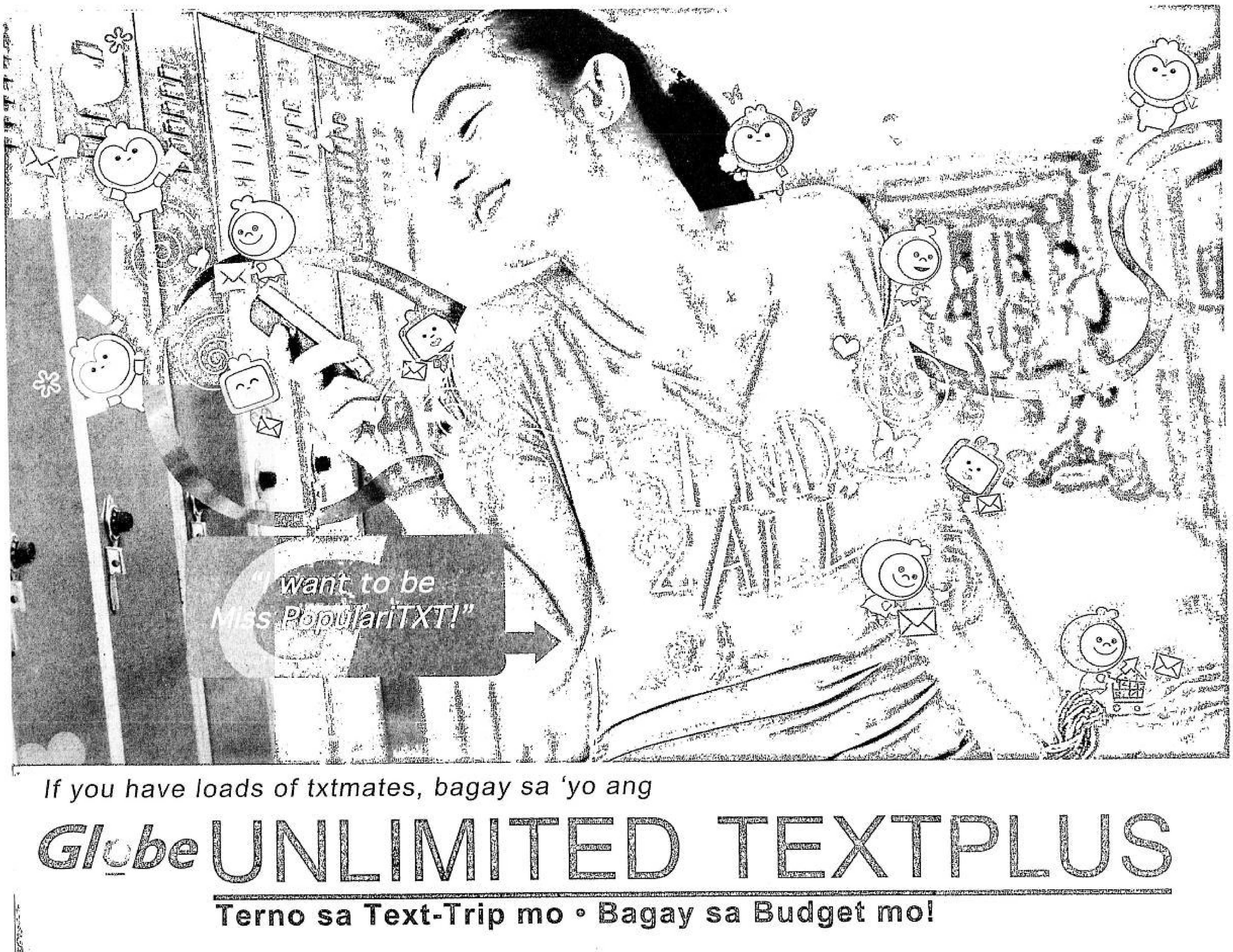
CARREY stars in Joel Schumacher's "The Number 23."

You were quoted in the production notes as saying, "I live in a very crowded room in my head. There's a lot of people in there..." Hearing many voices in your head may have come in handy for this role but how do you deal with this in your real life?

That's a problem. We are legions, you know what I mean? They can be demons sitting there trying to figure out how I am going to answer questions. The voices in my head have been kind of unresolved anger coming up and working its way through characters I choose—the people that I choose in my life. I'll fight with somebody. I used to call my shower the thunder dome because I could not step in the shower without going into some kind of oration with someone.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.




"I want to be Miss PopulariTXT!"
SEND 2 ALL

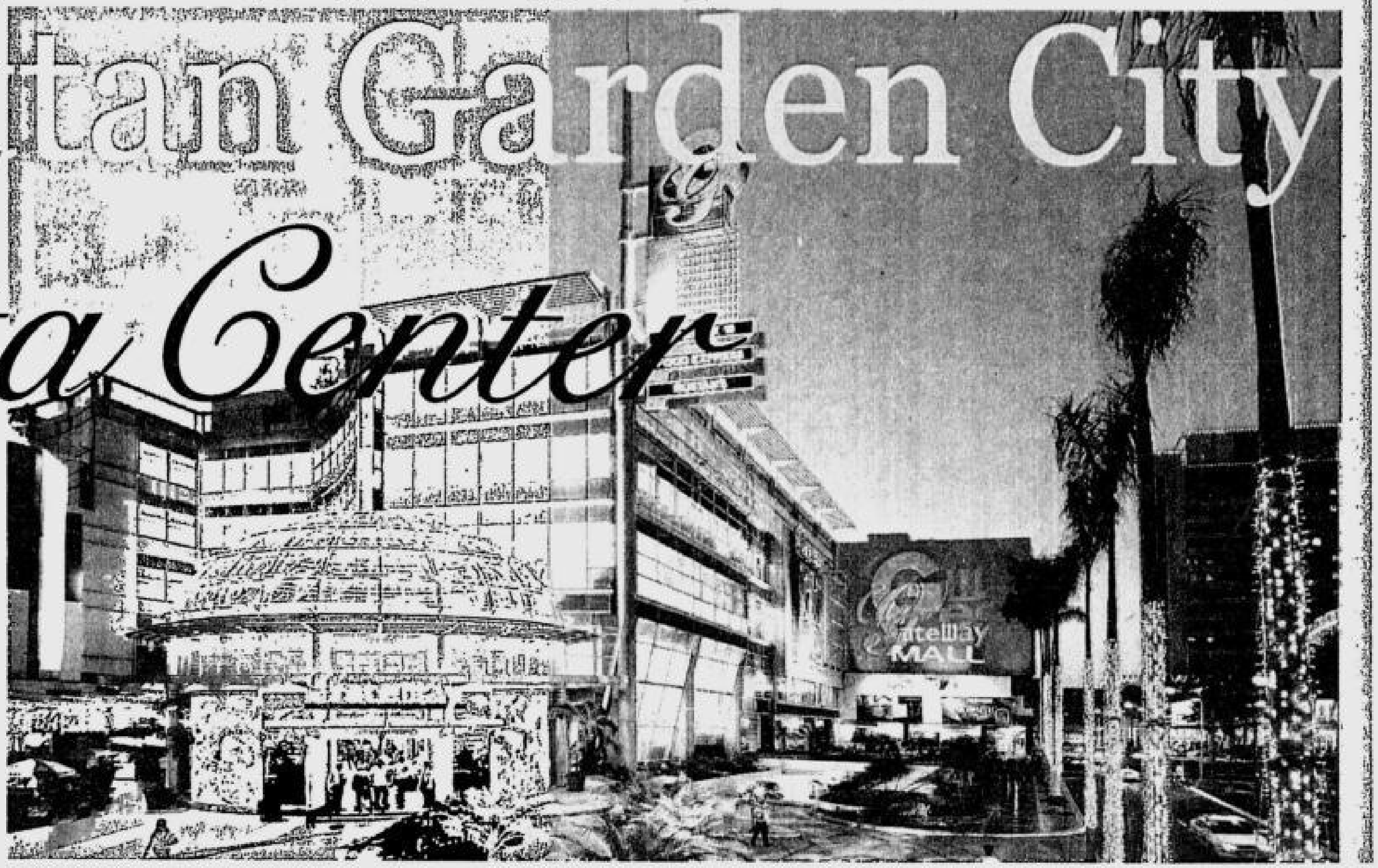
If you have loads of txtmates, bagay sa 'yo ang
Globe UNLIMITED TEXTPLUS
Terno sa Text-Trip mo • Bagay sa Budget mo!
P25 for 1 day!
Text TXTPLUS25 to 2870
Unlimited Globe-to-Globe, P0.75 Globe to other networks
For other offers, text UNLITXT to 2870 for FREE info!
Also available:
• Unlimited Text Regular: P20 for 1 day - text UNLITXT20 to 2870
• Unlimited Text Dayshift: P15 for 1 day - text UNLITXTD15 to 2870
• Unlimited Text Nightshift: P10 for 1 day - text UNLITXTN10 to 2870
ang lakas mo sa Globe

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE VIBRANT façade and curvilinear rooftop of Manhattan Garden City's residential towers will complement Araneta Center's skyline.

New project reg [illegible]

Manhattan Garden City transforms *Araneta Center*



THE PLUSH Gateway Mall symbolizes the strong commitment of the Araneta family to redevelop the whole Araneta Center.

By Joel V. Nigos

This is probably the first major and most important urban redevelopment in recent years.

Began a few years ago with the completion of the stylish Gateway Mall, Araneta Center's push to become a modern 21st century city haven is shifting into high gear with the launch of exciting business-oriented and innovative residential components.

As its initial foray into the rapidly expanding business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, the Araneta Group is developing 11 low-rise buildings that cater specially to the industry's requirements. The buildings are spread over seven hectares at the corner of Edsa and P. Tuazon and will cost about P3.8 billion over the next few years. Currently, the Araneta Center hosts leading BPO firm Accenture Philippines, which leased four floors at the Gateway Mall.

Complementing Araneta Center's drive to become a business district is a strong residential condominium development with the launch of Manhattan Garden City. This modern residential project covers five hectares of the 35-hectare Araneta Center, slated to be built in the more peaceful northeastern portion of the prime property.

New York-inspired

Manhattan Garden City's name, of course, draws inspiration from New York City's world-famous skyline. The garden city concept, meanwhile, imbues residents with a feel of nature throughout the project.

And to ensure the success of the reshaped Araneta Center's residential component, the Araneta group partnered with Megaworld Corp, the country's top high-rise residential condominium developer, to develop Manhattan Garden City.

Declared Megaworld chairman and president Andrew Tan: "With our excellent track record in developing modern townships such as Eastwood City, Manhattan Garden City will surely reshape the landscape of Araneta Center. We are offering investors a good opportunity to live, shop, and move like no other due to the project's various advantages."

First, Tan is referring to the stylish condominium units of Manhattan Parkway Residence, the first three towers to rise with 28 stories each at Manhattan Garden City. Investors can choose among studio, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units with outstanding views of the UP and Ateneo campuses up north, the Antipolo hills to the east, the Makati skyline to the south and the tranquil Manila Bay to the west.

Second, Manhattan residents will have top choices for leisurely shopping and casual dining at the Manhattan retail arcade, just an elevator ride from their plush residences. Of course, a wider array of choices awaits them at the Gateway Mall, including top restaurants Cibo, Italianni's and Super Bowl of China. Over at the Big Dome's Coliseum Circle, they can take a break from shopping or have a hearty meal over coffee after the day's main event at Starbucks, Coffee Bean or Dencio's.

A welcome urban renewal

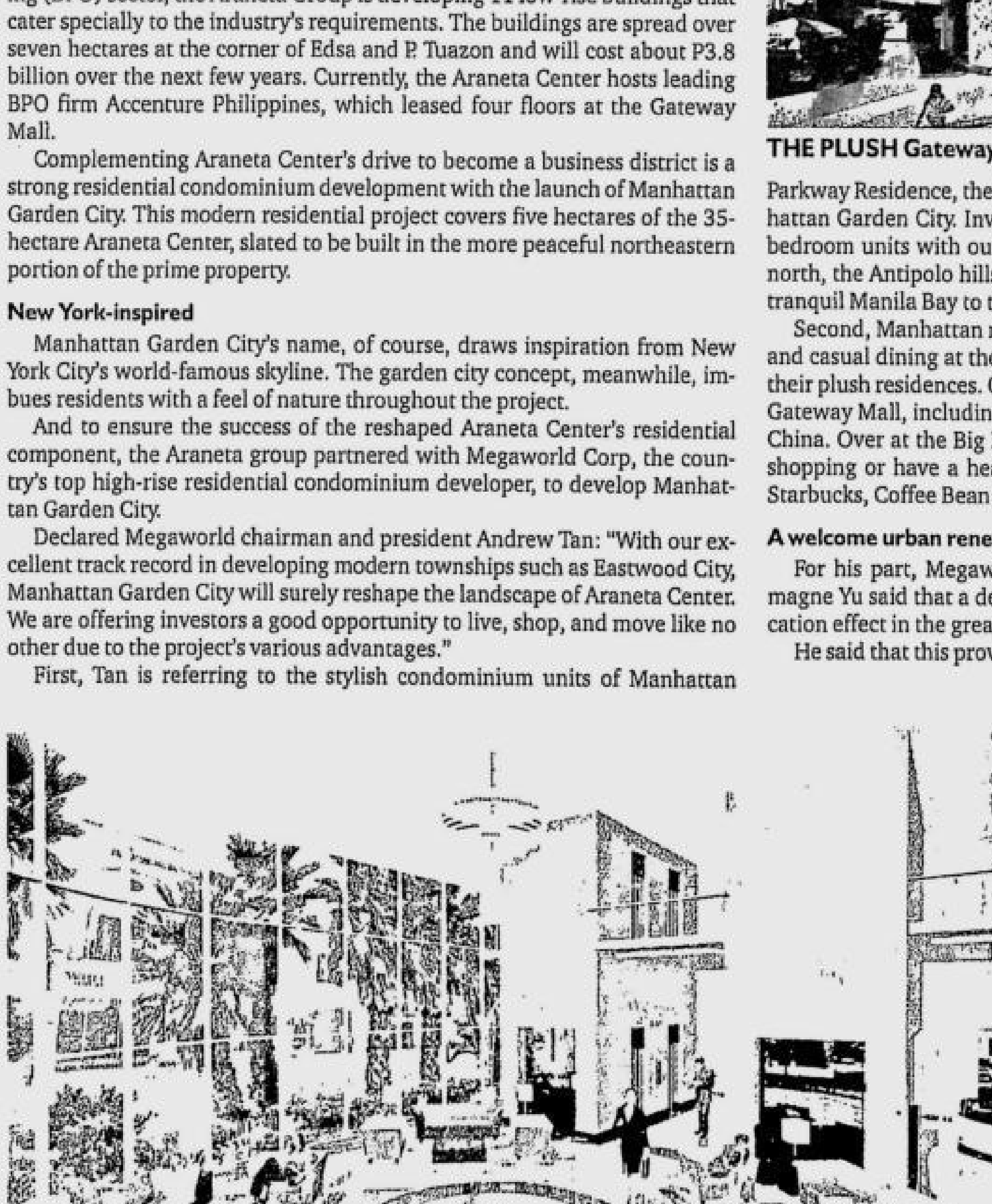
For his part, Megaworld Central Properties president Anthony Charlemagne Yu said that a development of this magnitude would have a gentrification effect in the greater Araneta Center area.

He said that this proved to be true in all the Megaworld projects they built including the Eastwood City in Libis. "Simply put, this would result to an urban renewal in the area and the development would increase the value of the property," he said.

"We have seen Gateway Mall come in. We have also seen the Araneta Coliseum changing its image. If you look at Gateway Mall, it's probably the most expensive mall in the country today on a per square meter basis. It is expensive in terms of the materials used in the mall's construction and also because of the outlet mix," noted Yu.

He added that with Gateway Mall, the center was able to draw the upper AB market. With the Manhattan Garden City attracting further the broad middle market, Yu said that Araneta Center would become the most vibrant area in the metropolis because of that diverse market blend.

Manhattan Garden City is just one aspect of the urban redevelopment of the Araneta Center. The office, commercial and retail components are all happening simultaneously, which is quite impressive.



THE MANHATTAN Grand Transfer Pavilion features a well-appointed lobby, which in turn connects all Manhattan Garden City towers via a 729-meter walkway.

"The Aranetas are now even talking to a hotel group to build a five-star hotel there," Yu divulged without revealing further details.

He added further: "We know that this project is very important to the Araneta Group. They even brought in their architect from Manhattan to help us in the project. They also have a traffic consultant from abroad to re-configure things--that if this area is developed it would not decongest the place."

"They are very meticulous. This would definitely bring about reshaping, renewal of the whole center," Yu noted.

First-class amenities

At Manhattan Garden City, privileged residents can move, relax, and entertain friends at the garden walkway-a 729-meter field of greenery and resort-style amenities such as a lap pool, landscaped sun deck and basketball court. It is lushly landscaped and provides easy access to the Manhattan grand transfer pavilion, through which they can easily move to any point of the metropolis via Manhattan's direct connection to the LRT2 and MRT3 lines. Traveling out and back to the metropolis would also be very easy as terminals of major buses with provincial routes are just a few steps away.

From the outside, Manhattan Garden City's fluid and dynamic façade jibes well with the Araneta Group's master plan for the Araneta Center as an emerging business and residential district. Tan concurred, "Megaworld sees Manhattan Garden City as an integral part of the new Araneta Center. Thus, we're bringing international standards and designs that will surely appeal to investors and will reflect the luxurious lifestyle of our residents."

NATURE paths abound in the flowering gardens of Manhattan Garden City, further boosting the abundance of landscaped gardens within the Araneta Center.

Megaworld and Araneta Group form successful partnership for *Manhattan Garden City*

By Joel V. Nigos

Just a few months ago, Megaworld Corp and the Araneta Group inked a deal to develop a strong residential component within the Araneta Center-the Manhattan Garden City. That partnership has since scored one success after another.

"We have now sold out Tower 1 of the five-hectare Manhattan Garden City," Megaworld Central Properties president Anthony Charlemagne Yu proudly announced recently. "This bodes well for the partnership, and we're launching Tower 2 as a result of the very strong demand from investors, foreign-based Filipinos and aspiring homeowners," Yu added.

He enumerated some of the reasons why Manhattan Garden City is selling so fast, like hotcakes. "First, people see the strong commitment of the Araneta Group to redevelop the Araneta Center. Gateway Mall, which is very upscale, attracts thousands of shoppers everyday. For our buyers, this signaled the transformation of the Araneta Center into a complete shopping, residential, leisure and business destination for the 21st century."

Buyers impressed

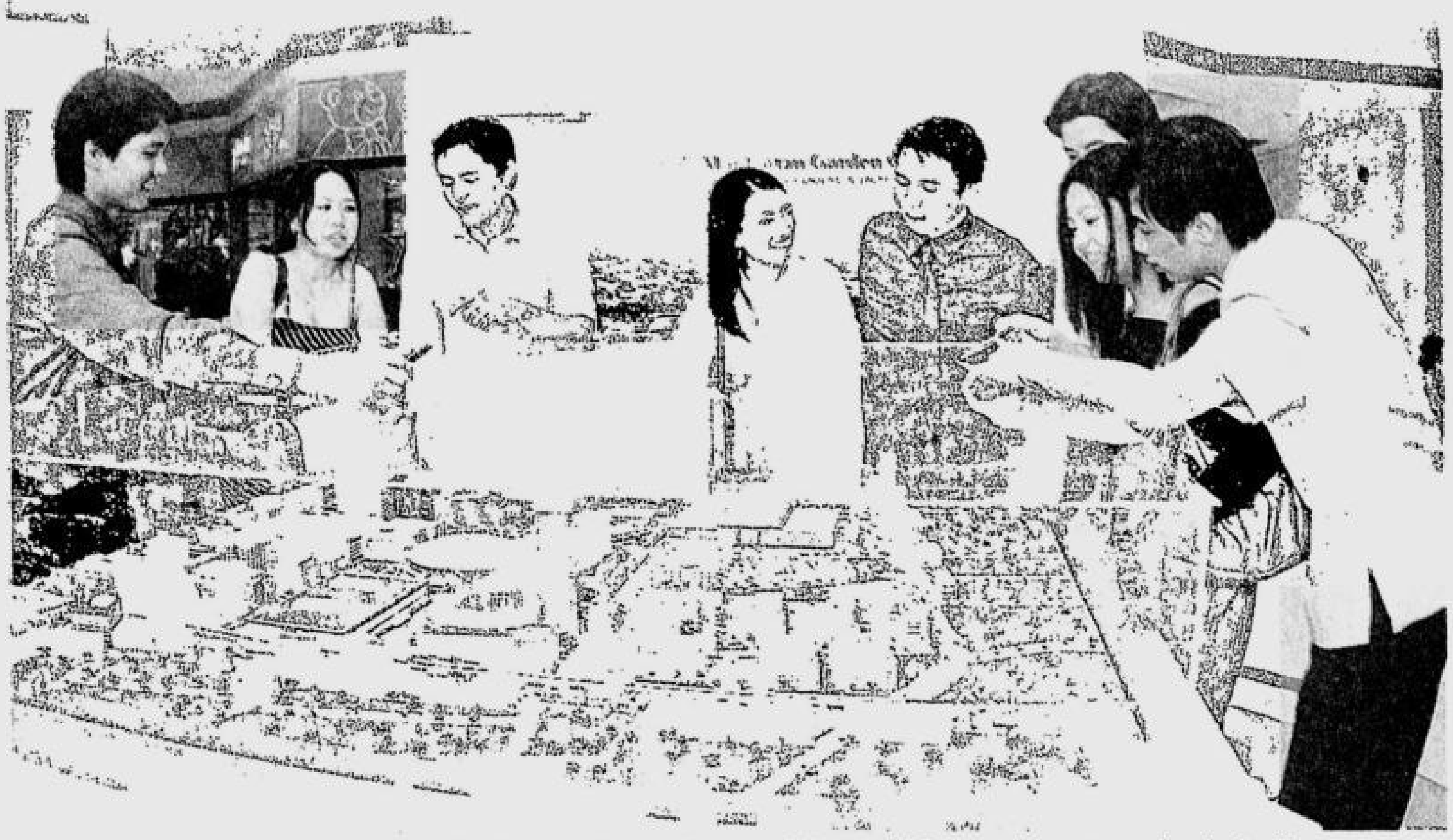
The other reasons impress buyers equally. "Manhattan Garden City is the first transit-oriented development that connects to both the LRT2 and MRT. Nowhere else in the metropolis will these two transit systems converge. This makes traveling around the metro convenient for our residents," he declared.

Manhattan Garden City's designs also proved to be appealing to buyers. The buildings' lively colors and curvilinear profile are reminiscent of New York City's skyline and will surely complement the two groups' vision for this vibrant, modern city. The plans for the amenities have also astounded many clients, as Manhattan Garden City features a five-hectare podium deck that hosts various amenities in a nature resort setting. Thus, they can spend quality time at the lap pool, the benches for some reading, and the jogging path, among others.

This strong residential component, which would form part of the modern and vibrant city that is the Araneta Center, would not be possible without the close collaboration of the two groups both highly respected in their fields.

Working together to achieve success is vital, more so since both companies are leaders in their respective industries. Megaworld is the country's leading residential condominium and BPO (business process outsourcing) office developer, while the Araneta Group built the country's very first lifestyle and leisure complex. Thus, the experience of both parties in their respective industries bodes well for the partnership and ultimately, their clients.

"From the flow of vehicular traffic to the security of residents, from the design of the buildings to the mix of tenants at the Manhattan Retail arcade," Yu noted that both Megaworld and the Araneta Group gave their valuable inputs.



THE PARTNERSHIP between two industry leaders—the Araneta Group and Megaworld Corporation —attracts hundreds of investors and homebuyers to Manhattan Garden City everyday.

LUSH landscaping immediately imbibes the nature resort setting feel to visitors and homebuyers at the Manhattan Garden City showroom.

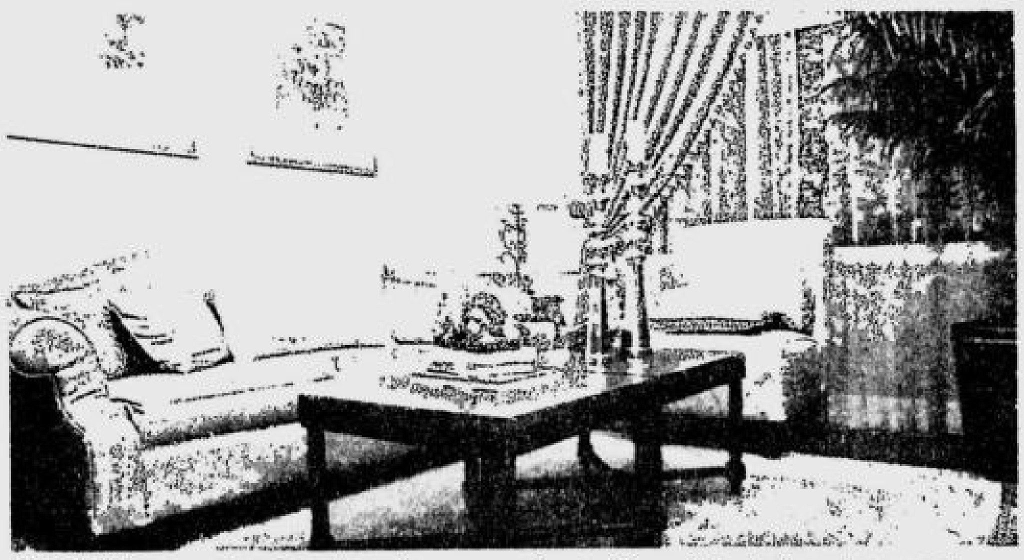
Intense partnership

And he characterized the relationship now of the Araneta Group and Megaworld as a very intense partnership.

"It's intense in the sense that both groups have very high respect for each other primarily because of our respective credentials in different fields. We have high regard for them as far as their knowledge in the retail and commercial spaces in the same way that they recognize our expertise in building townships and high-rise residential development. Both groups are also very hardworking, actively contributing their inputs in the project. There is a lot of healthy respect," he explained.

He added that both parties are now looking at further improving components that will make Manhattan Garden City the best place to live, shop, dine and work within the Araneta Center.

"And of course, we're both putting our efforts on selling Tower 2 in record time," he smiled.



THE LIVING area of the 2-bedroom Manhattan Garden City unit basks in contemporary European elegance.

The importance of being at the *center*

From page H3

steady stream of transportation services bound for various points in and out of the metro, Araneta Center is also the only point in the metropolis where two major mass transit systems collect and disembark passengers daily. Its unique location lets anyone get to Divisoria in 29 minutes for bargain hunting, to Katipunan in 8 for schooling, to Marikina in 15 for shoe shopping, and to Makati in 17 minutes for business appointments.

Be at the center

Realizing its strategic position as a metropolitan area, Araneta Center has stepped up into its next phase of development: the opportunity of establishing living quarters within its enclaves. Living within Araneta Center offers the chance to be at the center of everything again, and it would be an offer best taken immediately.

Manhattan Garden City is the center within the center within the center. Located in the bustling northeast residential side of the Araneta Center, Manhattan Garden City is a sprawling residential enclave scattered across a prime five-hectare spot. It is the country's first-ever garden-inspired, transit-oriented community connected to two mass transit systems: the LRT2 and MRT3. Top choices in shopping, dining and entertainment are just downstairs, where the Araneta Coliseum, Gateway Shopping Mall, Ali Mall, and other famous landmarks perch mightily.

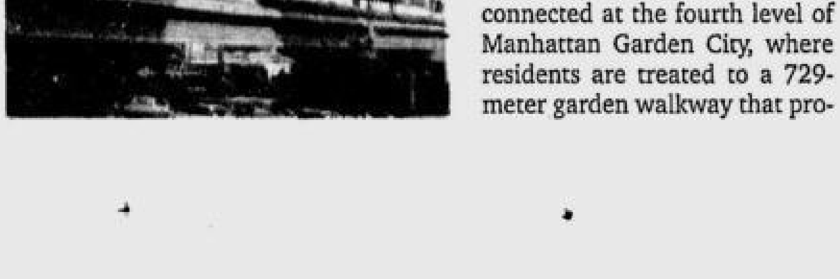
Shop for the latest fashion at Rustan's. Dine at the trendy garden-themed Oasis at Gateway Mall. Watch games and concerts at the Big Dome. The choices here at the center of the metro are virtually limitless.

Should the travel bug hit you, other hotels, shopping centers, hospitals, schools, and leisure centers are minutes away without the usual traffic gridlock. Even better, all towers are interconnected at the fourth level of Manhattan Garden City, where residents are treated to a 729-meter garden walkway that provides a well-deserved breath of fresh air.

Of course, living at Manhattan Garden City is the height of luxury itself. Apart from location, residents are treated to active, semi-active, passive- and semi-passive zones, each featuring recreational, fitness, and sporting pursuits that fit the category. At the end of the day, relax and unwind in the comforts of your well-appointed home, built with comfort in mind, and modernity as a guideline.

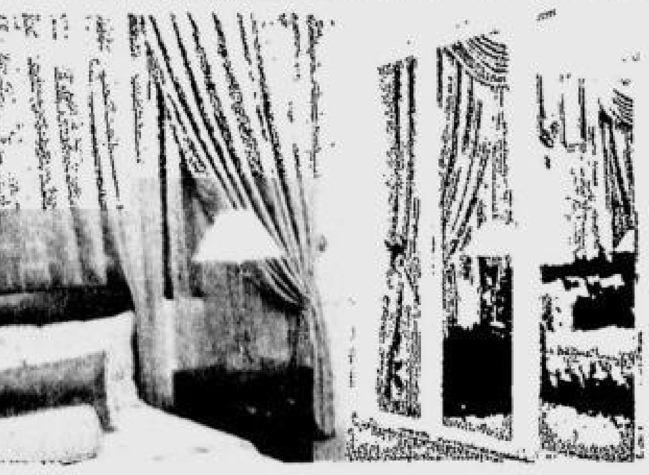
It certainly pays to be in the middle of things, and Manhattan Garden City offers you the rare opportunity to be right smack at the center of it all.

Do drop by the Araneta Center soon to experience how convenient it is to live your life at the center. While you're there, visit the Manhattan Garden City showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall. Or call 810-3333 or e-mail inquire@themanhattangardencity.com for a viewing appointment.



MANHATTAN Garden City at the Araneta Center is the first and only transit-oriented project that connects directly to two mass transit systems: the LRT2 (top) and the MRT3.

THE DINING area gives off a warm, splendid feel.



LIVE like a royal couple in this 2-bedroom unit of Manhattan Garden City.

The importance of being at the *center*

THE CENTRAL location of Manhattan Garden City draws a growing number of investors and home buyers.

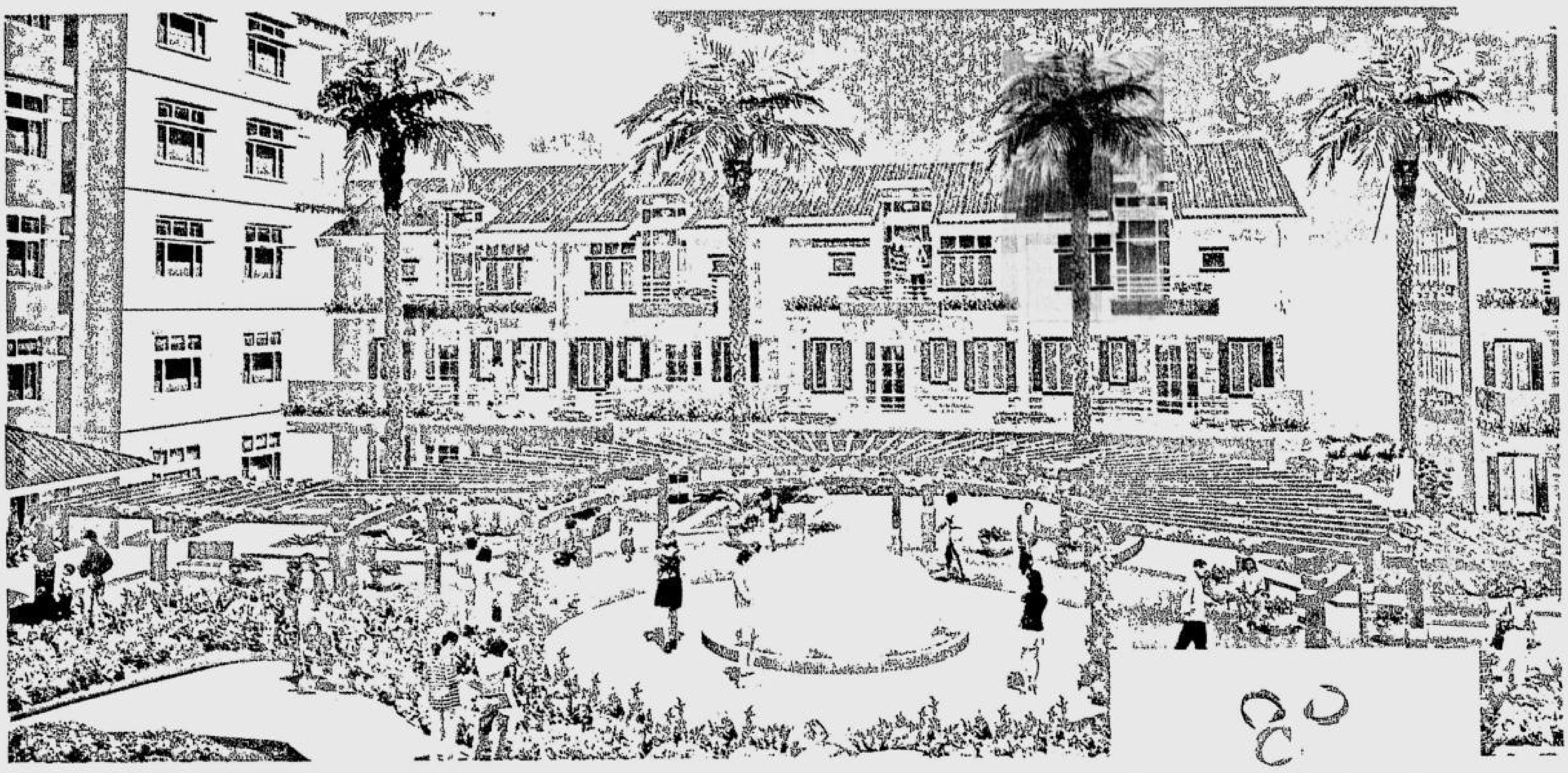
Since time immemorial, man has always obsessed about living in the center of the universe. There is an abject fascination about being in the center of things, as it seems to give power to the man in the middle. Despite centuries of enlightenment, however, where man faced the reality that his existence may not be at the center of things after all, the fascination remains.

In choosing matters of residence, the need for a centrist point of view is remarkably preserved. Given the choice, people want to live, and prefer to have their children grow up in a familiar place that's near everything.

Here in Metro Manila, Araneta Center remains such a center of the local universe. Built in the 1960s by the family that lent its name to the country's first leisure and lifestyle complex, the Araneta Center remains one of the country's vital urban spots, where close to a million people set foot every day. Araneta Center is often the first destination of tourists, and it remains the last place to go to before leaving back home. Araneta Center serves well as a hub, as it has something for everyone. It offers a wealth of shopping, dining and entertainment choices that come across all budget ranges.

Years of transformation have not diminished the geographical value of Araneta center. Careful cultivation and strategic planning have steadily changed the Araneta landscape to reflect more modern times. Aside from its

CENTER/ H2



Manhattan Garden City
AT THE ARANETA CENTER

A Matchless Location at the Metro's Center.

Go from home to the heart of the action in no time. At Manhattan Parkway, the first phase of Manhattan Garden City, enjoy the benefits of living in the country's first-ever transit-oriented development. Experience the freedom to go places with utmost ease via the LRT-2 and MRT-3. And reach the north, east, west and south sides of Metro Manila in one go. What's more, be a walk away from the Araneta Center and its shops, offices, restaurants and entertainment hubs.

Surrounded by the city's key destinations.

…or Parkway home is encircled by everything the city has to offer. And you'r… …st a train ride away from it all. Walk down an exclusive 729-meter-long garden footbridge four stories above street level. …ke in its park-like scenery. And arrive at the LRT-2 and MRT-3 stations …fel… and without the hassles of traffic.

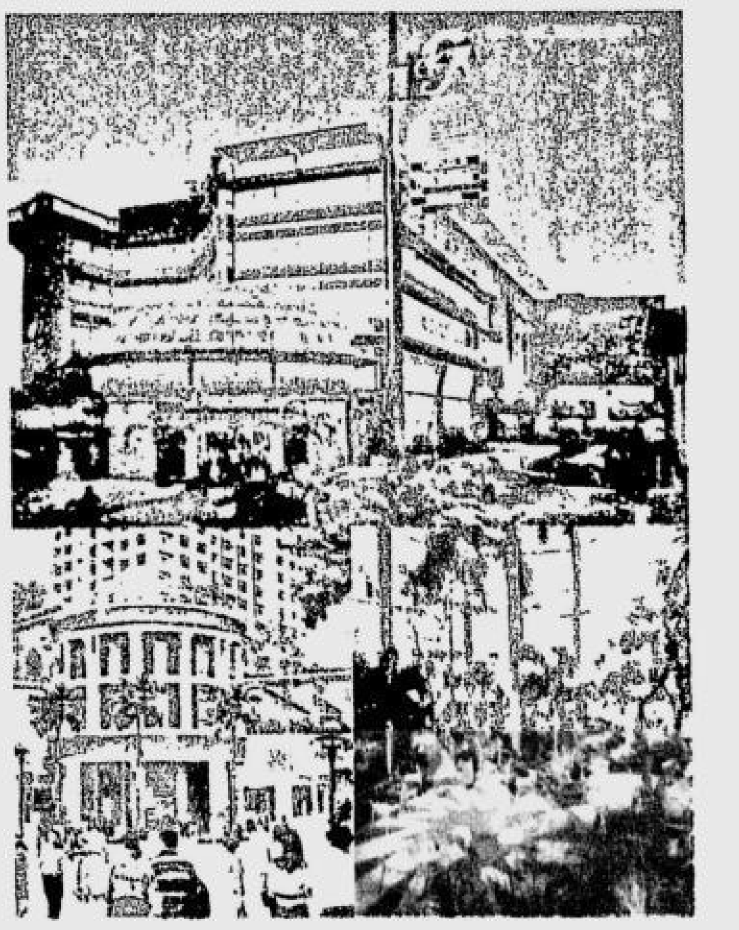
From the LRT-2 along Aurora Boulevard, Ateneo and UP in Quezon …and Manila's university belt are just minutes away. The MRT-3 … EDSA br…ngs Makati, Ortigas and Taft Avenue within easy reach. Both lines join up with the LRT-1, making it easy to go anywhere from Monumento in Caloocan to Baclaran in Parañaque.

Surrounded by the Araneta Center's hot spots.

…the …iddle of a pulsating lifestyle and leisure center: …r ho… a four-story transfer station with …four …assenger elevators brings …, which hosts the Oasis, a unique …oating garden. …rom here, simply walk to the Araneta Coliseum. Or to Rustan's, SM, Shopwise, Ali Mall or Farmers Plaza.

Surrounded by the comforts of home.

…expi… …ld outside, your home is just …h… it's an executive studio or one-bedroom suite, Manhattan Parkway offers you soothing views of the Araneta Center and Manila Bay. What's more, enjoy hours of active play at the fourth-level garden deck. There are trellised walkways, jogging trails, a fitness station, an indoor sauna/spa and a gym. And if that's not enough, a footbridge leads to more play amenities at the upcoming phases.



Visit our SHOWROOM
at the third floor of the Gateway Mall.

A FIRST from Megaworld
in cooperation with Security Bank!

Own a Manhattan Parkway condo with
MEGAWORLD
HOMELITE
A NEW ERA IN AFFORDABLE HOME FINANCING

Celebrate the New Year with the most important decision of your life.

Own a luxurious studio at Manhattan Parkway for as low as
P10,246 a month fixed for 20 years.
Choose from our revolutionary, budget-friendly packages, including HOMELITE 10, HOMELITE 15 or HOMELITE 25.

For more details, inquire from our HOMELITE specialist. Call 810-3333 now.

Joint Venture Partner:
Araneta
www.aranetacenter.net

Exclusive Marketing Agent:
Megaworld Central Properties, Inc
inquire@themanhattangardencity.com

DEVELOPER:
Megaworld Corporation
www.megaworldcorp.com
ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED

For Announcement Purposes Only

Choosing the finest condo now made easier with Homelite

By Joel V. Nigos

At 45 sq. m., a 1-bedroom unit definitely offers a lot of space. With the revolutionary Homelite, yuppies and starting families can acquire this unit for only P25,378 monthly

LIFE IS ALL ABOUT CHOICES. IF YOU'RE one of the few who make that choice to get only the finest, most luxurious things in life, then you'll find your perfect home at Manhattan Garden City.

That home could be a stylish studio, 1-bedroom or two-bedroom unit within this new city. Their stylish layout, as can be viewed from its showroom, makes them the finest units available today.

The 1-bedroom unit, for instance, was outfitted in a trendy modern Asian theme. Upon entry, the receiving area makes you feel at home right away. It features tassels and modern Chinese ornaments, and a mirror easily doubles the space.

The master bedroom, with its red motif will surely bring luck. The headboard was meticulously designed, as well as the pillows that call to mind a stunning Chinese maiden. A yellow umbrella further hints of the artistry of this Asian-themed haven.

Revolutionary Homelite

Now, making that choice of owning this affordable home would be easier with Homelite, a home loan that will surely grab the attention of first-time buyers, overseas Filipinos and investors. The scheme is the result of the close collaboration between Megaworld Corp and Security Bank.

With interest rates as low as 5.5 percent annually for a five-year term, it also offers the longest period of fixed interest rate for 25 years at 11 percent. At 5.5 percent, buyers will get to leverage their cash position while saving a lot on interest payments.

"We really wanted to tap the market that is in need of housing, that is, the broad middle group. We cannot keep on boasting that we want to address the housing needs of the broad middle group without making it affordable. And it would not be possible without bringing down the amortization rate. That's why we came up with Homelite," added Megaworld Central Properties president Anthony Charlemagne Yu.

Peace of mind for buyers

He added that traditionally, developers would offer a three-year term. "We're the first to offer a five-year no down payment scheme, and up to 25 years fixed term. That's a first in the history of this kind of development in the country. The option to have it fixed is important because we're offering a house where comfort and peace of mind is important, how can we offer peace of mind when interest rates could go up anytime which would affect one's monthly amortization?" he emphasized.

"The fixed rate in Hong Kong, Korea or Japan happened 30 years ago. People are projecting that it would happen here in 15 years but with our tie-up with Security Bank, we're making it happen here now," said Yu.

And with a development that caters to various needs of people such as security, mobility and comfort, the special loan package would definitely boost sales for the Manhattan Garden City.

First-time homebuyers can stretch their home loan to 10, 15 or even 25 years to pay, with low interest rates from 8.5 to 11 percent annually. "Even at a 25-year term, our 22.5-square meter studio unit comes out at a very affordable P10,847 monthly. This is the best chance for many individuals to own a home, at prices they can afford," Yu added. The same flexibility of low interest and low monthly amortizations are also being offered for 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units which are ideal for starting families.

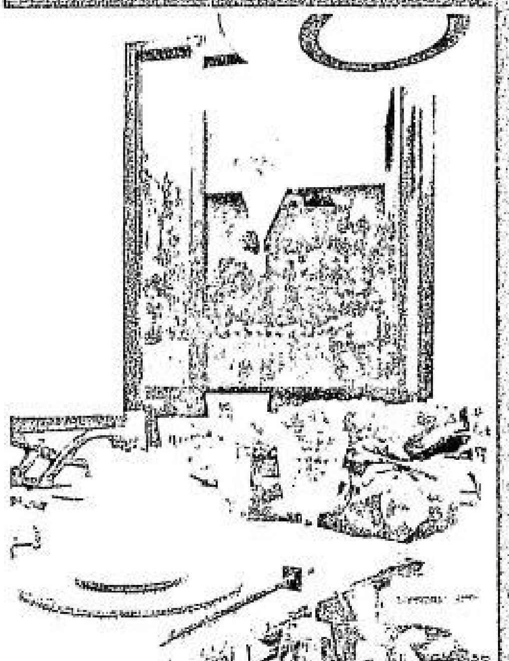
At 45 sq. m., a 1-bedroom unit definitely offers a lot of space. With Homelite, yuppies and starting families can acquire this unit for only P25,378 monthly.

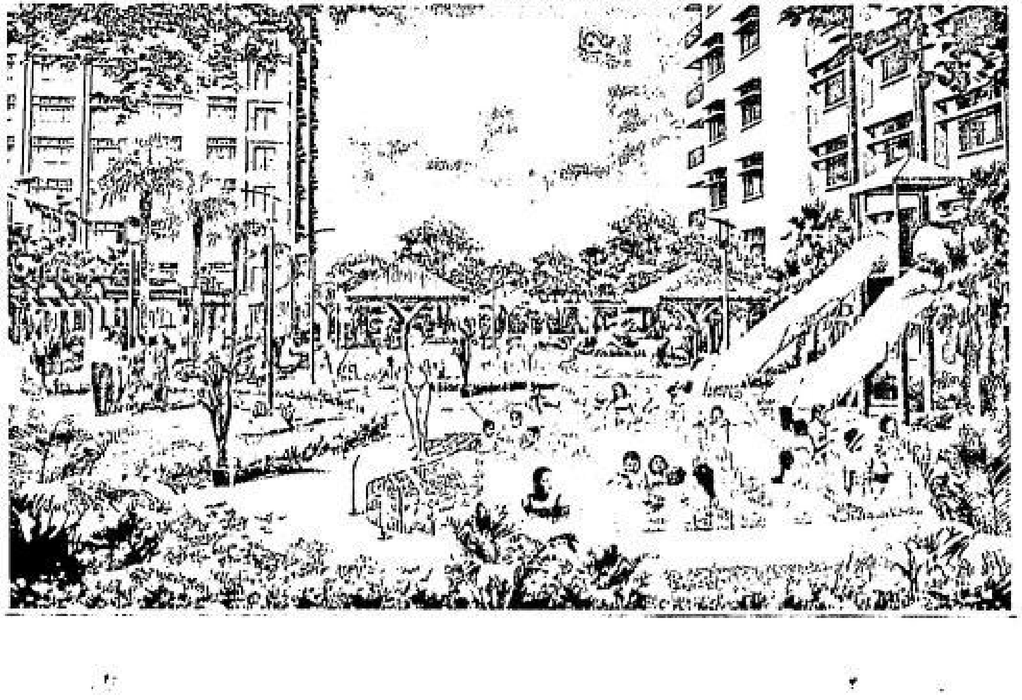
"We anticipate that the investing public will warmly receive Homelite. We are proud to help fulfill their dream of owning a home that they can be proud of," he said.

Manhattan Garden City offers investors and families a highly strategic location in the very center of Metro Manila at Araneta Center. The first and only transit-oriented development in the country to have a direct connection to the LRT-2 and MRT-3 lines, the development gives residents easy access to the top schools, business centers and shopping destinations of the metropolis.

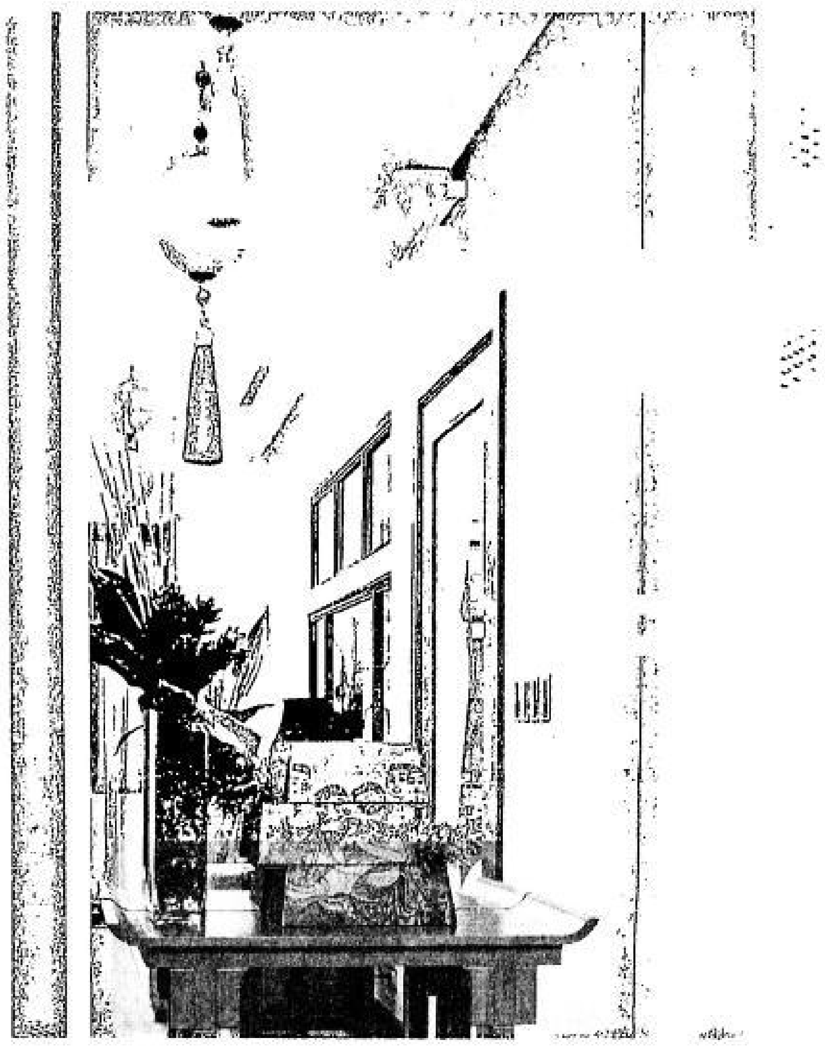
"After all, what more can your heart desire? The best features that make Manhattan in New York City an enviable residential haven inspired this new city on the rise. Its modern residential towers take their design cue from Manhattan's world-famous breathtaking skyline.

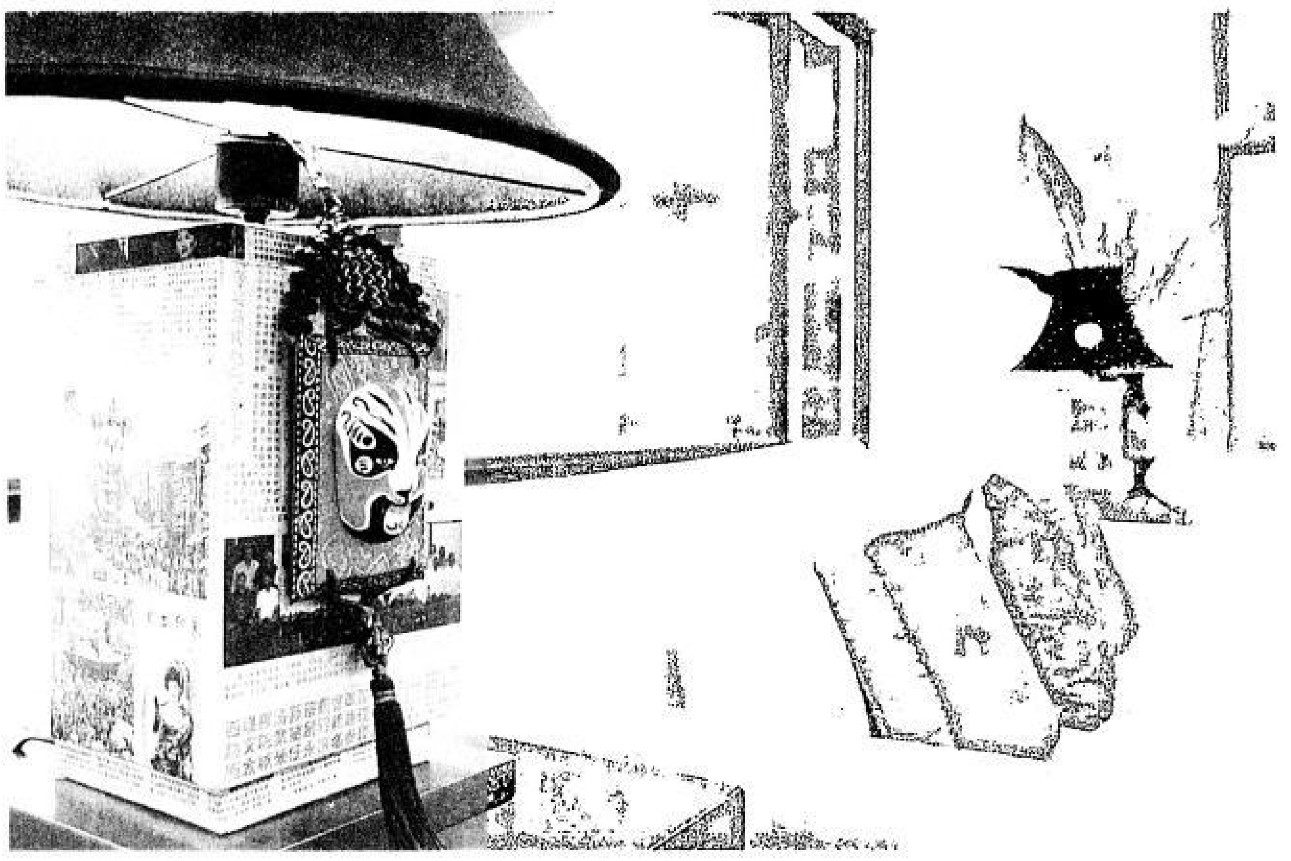
With Homelite, families will be able to fast-track their dream to finally have their own homes," Yu summed up.





LEFT: The dining area's garden-themed motif is as inviting: you'll want to partake of a hearty meal right away. Below: The leisure resort setting makes the lap pool, children's pool and play area truly first class.





FROM top: The receiving area features tassels and modern Chinese ornaments. A mirror easily doubles the space.
The revolutionary Homelite program makes this Manhattan Garden City 1-bedroom unit highly affordable, at only P25,378 a month.
Terra cotta soldiers stand guard as wonderful accent pieces in the Modern Asian-themed 1-bedroom model unit.
The bedroom's interiors will surely bring a lifetime of good luck.

Choosing the finest condo now made easier with *Homelite*

By Joel V. Nigos

> At 45 sq. m., a 1-bedroom unit definitely offers a lot of space. With the revolutionary Homelite, yuppies and starting families can acquire this unit for only P25,378 monthly

LIFE IS ALL ABOUT CHOICES. IF YOU'RE one of the few who make that choice to get only the finest, most luxurious things in life, then you'll find your perfect home at Manhattan Garden City.

That home could be a stylish studio, 1-bedroom or two-bedroom unit within this new city. These stylish layout, as can be viewed from its showroom, makes them the finest units available today.

The 1-bedroom unit, for instance, was outfitted in a trendy modern Asian theme. Upon entry, the receiving area makes you feel at home right away. It features tassels and modern Chinese ornaments, and a mirror easily doubles the space.

The master bedroom, with its red motif, will surely bring luck. The headboard was meticulously designed, as well as the pillows that call to mind [illegible] stunning [illegible] Chinese modern [illegible] yellow [illegible] umbrella [illegible] further hint of the [illegible]

Revolutionary Homelite

Now [illegible] making the choice of owning this affordable home would be easier with Homelite. [illegible] will surely [illegible] fulfillment of the [illegible] Filipino [illegible] scheme is the [illegible] collaboration [illegible] Manhattan Garden City [illegible]

With interest rates as low as 4.5 percent annually for a five-year term, it also offers the longest period of fixed interest rate for 25 years at 8.1 percent. At 8.5 percent, buyers will get to leverage their cash position while saving a lot on interest payments.

"We really wanted to tap the market of [illegible] in need of housing, that is the broad middle group. We cannot keep on boasting that we wanted to address the housing needs of the broad middle group without making it affordable. And it would not be possible without bringing down the amortization rate. That is why we came up with Homelite," noted Megaworld Central Properties president [illegible]

Peace of mind for buyers

[illegible] developer [illegible] first to offer a five-year no down payment scheme, and up to 25 years fixed term. That's a first in the history of this kind of development in the country. The option to have it fixed is important because we're offering a house with comfort and peace of mind. [illegible] important [illegible] offer peace of mind when interest [illegible] go up anytime [illegible] would affect [illegible] monthly amortization? [illegible] fixed.

"The fixed rate in Hong Kong, Korea or Japan happened 30 years ago. People [illegible] projecting that it would happen here in [illegible] years but with our development [illegible] Security Bank [illegible] making it [illegible] now.

"And with a development that [illegible] people [illegible] mobility and comfort [illegible] this package would definitely boost [illegible] Manhattan Garden City.

"First-time homebuyers can stretch their terms from 5, 10 or 15 or even 25 years to pay with low interest rates from 4.5 to 8.1 percent annually. Even at a 25-year term, a 25.5-square-meter studio unit comes out at a very affordable P10,847 monthly. This is the best chance for many individuals to own a home that [illegible] they can afford," he added. The same flexibility of low interest and low monthly amortizations are also being offered for 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units, which are ideal for starting families.

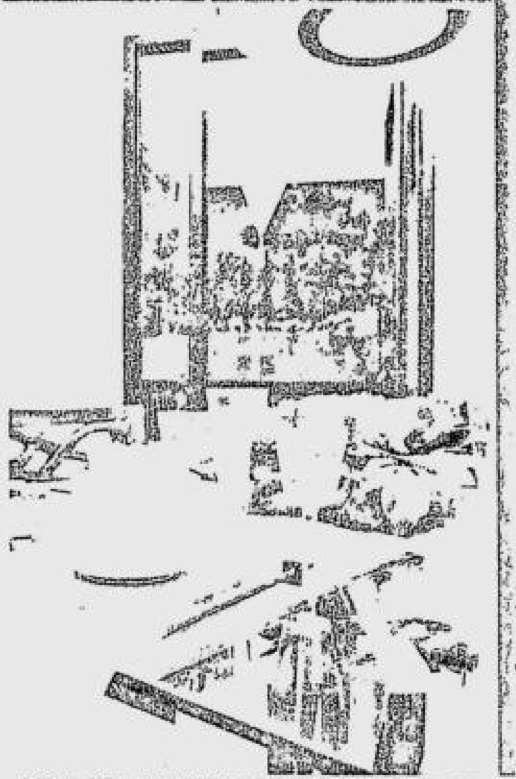
At 45 sq. m., a 1-bedroom unit definitely offers a lot of space. With Homelite, yuppies and starting families can acquire this unit for only P25,378 monthly.

"We anticipate that the investing public will warmly receive Homelite. We are proud to help fulfill their dream of owning a home that they can be proud of," he said.

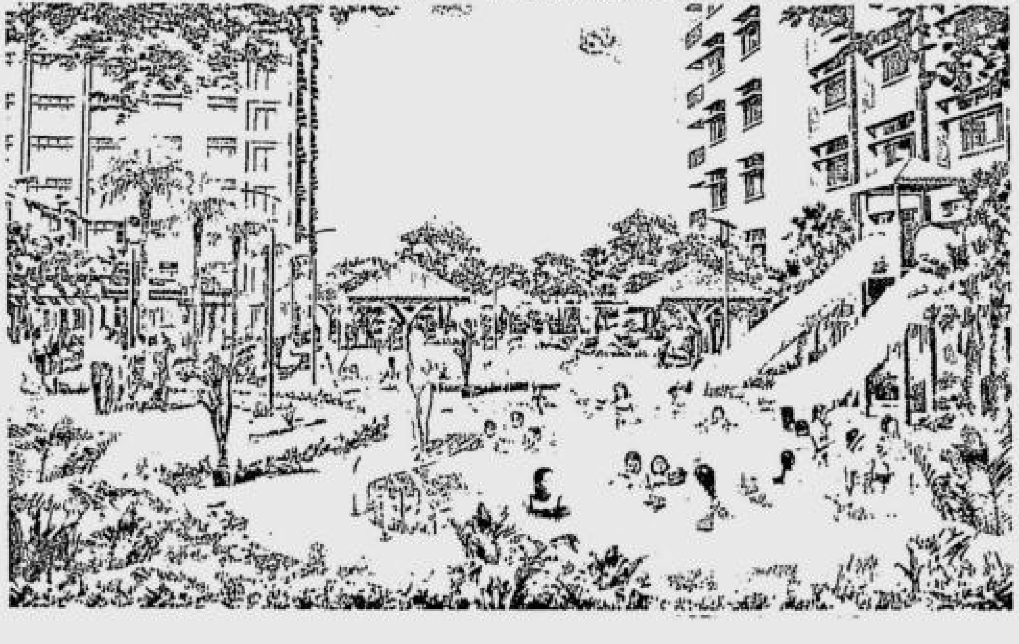
Manhattan Garden City offers investors and families a highly strategic location at the very center of Metro Manila at Araneta Center. The first and only transit-oriented development in the country to have a direct connection to the LRT2 and MRT3 lines, the development gives residents easy access to the top schools, business centers and shopping destinations of the metropolis.

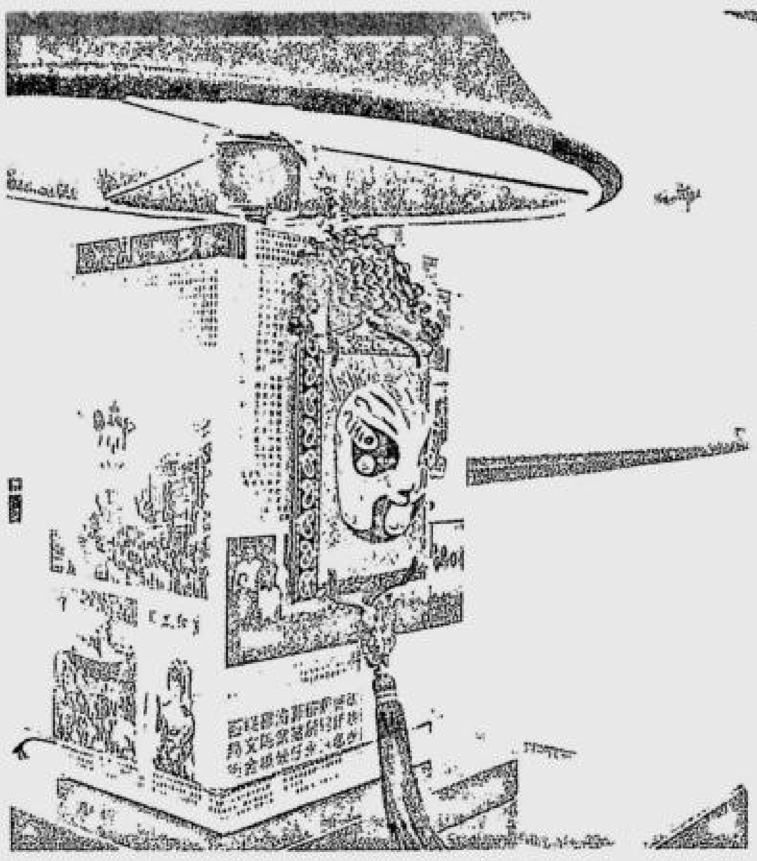
After all, what more can you need in life? The best features that make Manhattan in New York City an enviable residential [illegible] inspired this new city on the rise. Its modern residential towers take their design [illegible] from Manhattan's world-famous breathtaking skyline.

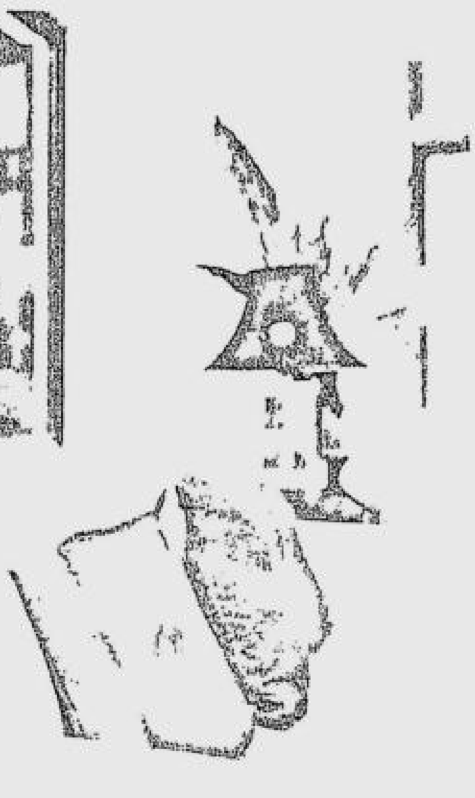
"With Homelite, families will be able to [illegible] their dreams, finally have their own home," he summed up.

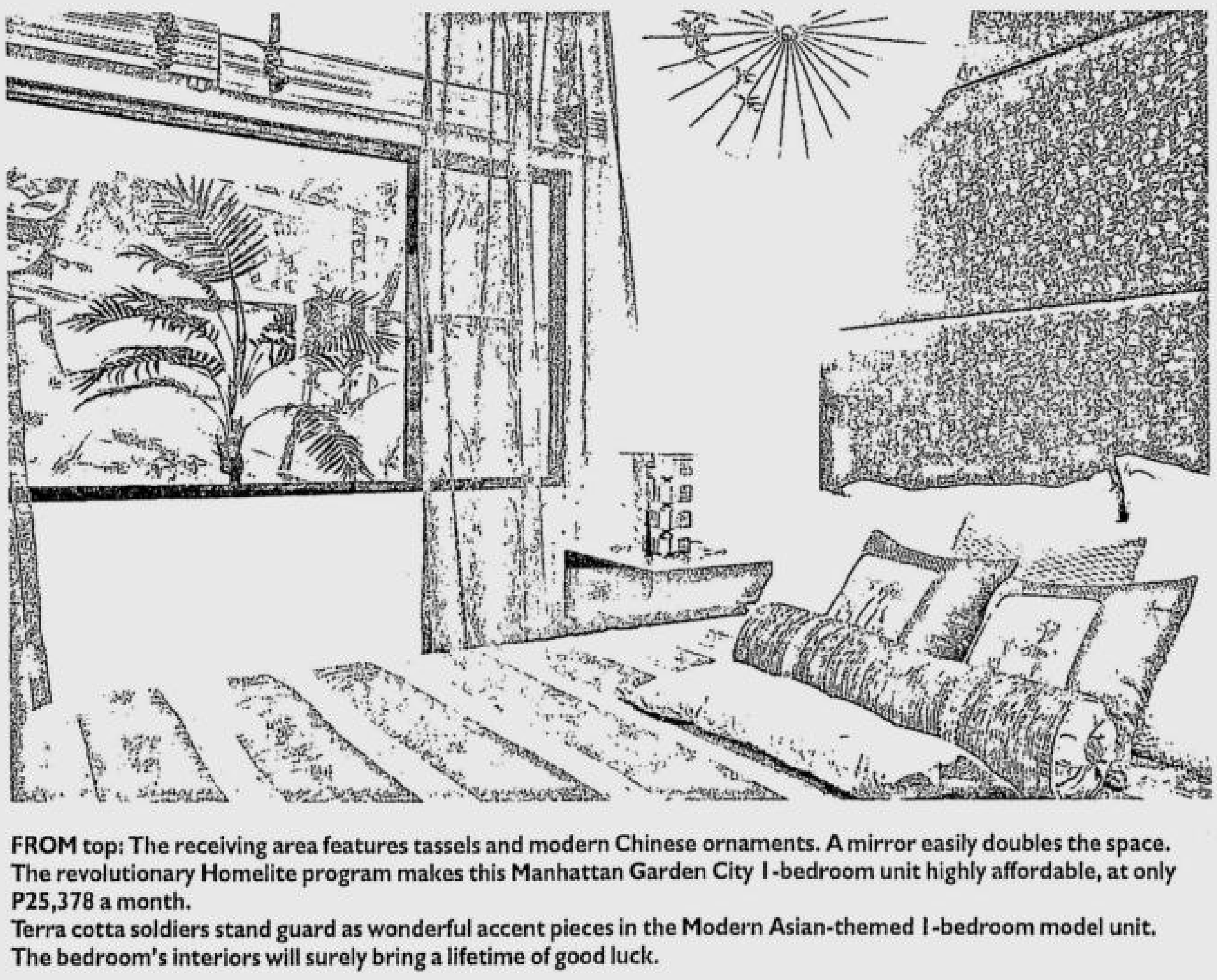


LEFT: [illegible]









FROM top: The receiving area features tassels and modern Chinese ornaments. A mirror easily doubles the space.
The revolutionary Homelite program makes this Manhattan Garden City 1-bedroom unit highly affordable, at only P25,378 a month.
Terra cotta soldiers stand guard as wonderful accent pieces in the Modern Asian-themed 1-bedroom model unit.
The bedroom's interiors will surely bring a lifetime of good luck.

Balance, harmony define Year of Fire Pig

By Joel V. Nigos

"BALANCED AND HARMONIOUS," THIS IS how feng shui master professor Charlie Chao describes the coming Year of the Fire Pig.

Chao explains that his analysis is based on the principle that the universe follows a cycle of 12 signs and five elements. And since each sign is also represented by an element, in this case, the pig is represented by water, the blending of the elements fire and water would define the year.

"Others are saying that fire and water would clash with each other but according to the I-Ching theory, fire and water are complementing. They balance and harmonize. It's just that the fire (like the sun) should be above the water (like the ocean). In that way, there is balance."

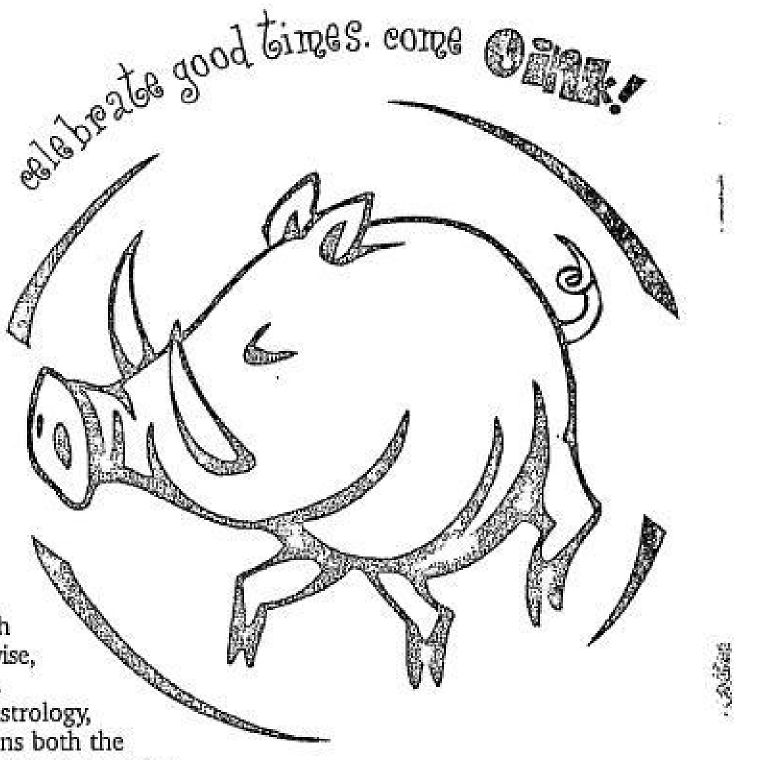
Yi-jing philosophy

Chao is a master in Chinese literature and history. He pioneered in unraveling the scientific basis of Chinese geomancy based on the Yi-jing (I-Ching) philosophy. He also authored the "Yi-jing Divination" or "I-Ching Cards." He is also the author of books titled "Practical Feng Shui," "Practical Geomancy" and the "Yi-Jing Divination" or "I-Ching Cards."

Based on the Chinese Lunar Calendar, he says, the Year of the Fire Pig starts on Feb. 18, 2007 (Sunday) of the Western calendar. This period ends on Feb. 6, 2008 (Saturday). In Chinese tradition, firecrackers are used to celebrate the season in welcoming the New Year and sending off the old year and its misfortune. A practice which has been adapted by the West including the Philippines every Jan. 1, through these the Chinese expect good fortune, good health and new life.

In the Yi-jing theory, the universe has five elements—wood, fire, earth, metal and water. Each element has its own color, such as green representing wood, red for fire, yellow for earth, white for metal and black for water.

Yi-Jing is the first literature and science book in China. It is the study of "changes" of the universe. Yi-Ching states that only "change" can help a country overcome all misfortunes and obstacles it is facing. With this, sacrifices should be made and national policies and systems should be changed right now with full confidence, otherwise, the "chance" will be gone.


celebrate good times. come Oink!

Based on Chinese astrology, the Fire Pig Year contains both the elements of "Fire" and "Water" since the pig really belongs to the "Water" element. These two elements seem to construct each other. Based on Yi-Jing principles, these elements will complement—hence, there is balance and harmony.

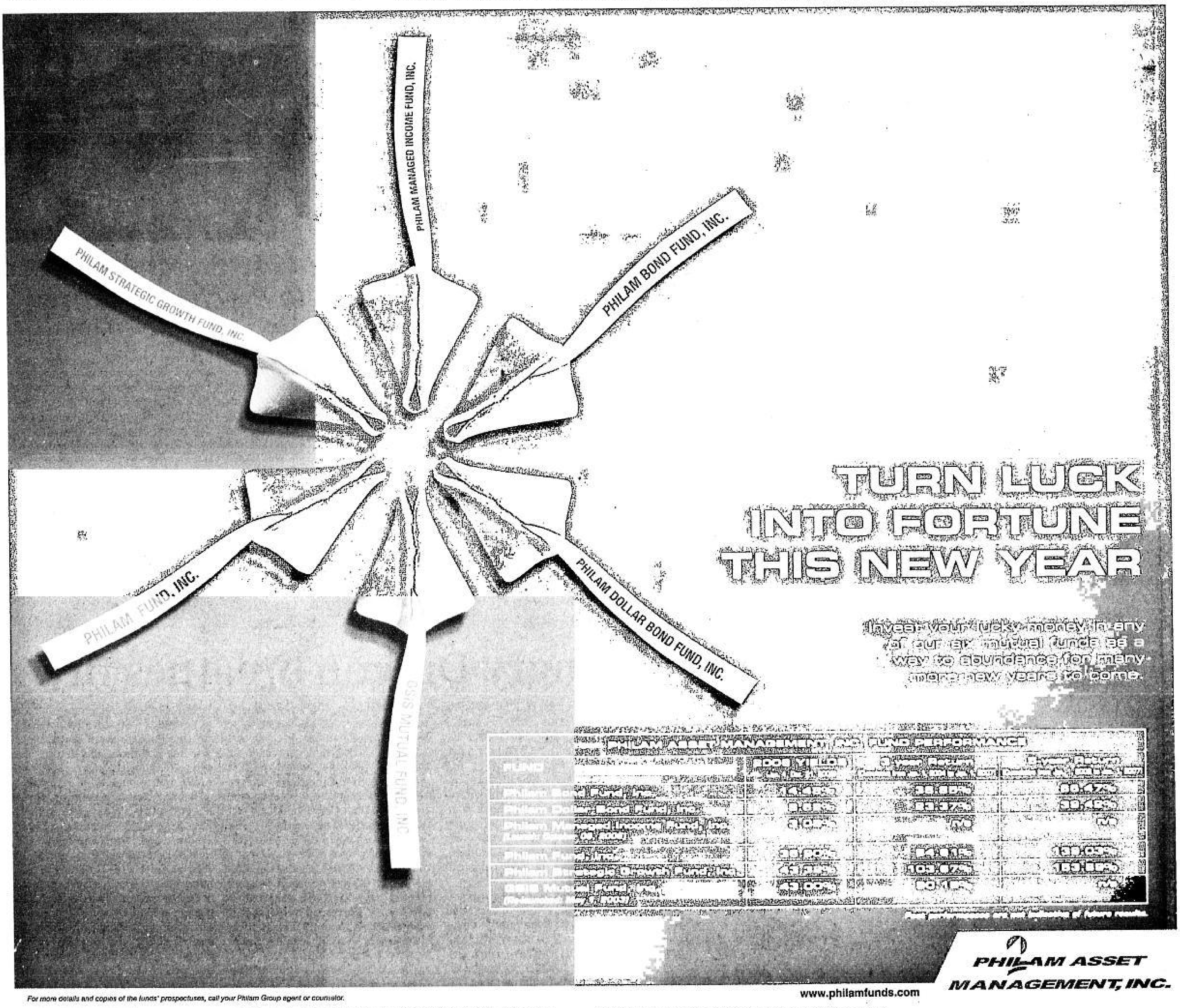
The difference between the Fire Pig Year and the Fire Dog Year, according to Chao, is that the latter has storage of fire. This storage of fire in the year 2006 resulted to several world calamities and disasters. Since the Fire Pig Year has balanced elements of both Fire and Water, this could mean less catastrophes are expected this year. In world politics, there will be a precaution of change in leadership because the "Water" of the "Pig" is under the "Fire," it is a sign that people will overthrow their government.

"Heated political arguments and debates are still expected. However, since the Philippines is a religious country and most Filipinos are devoted Christians, these arguments will not become worse this year because of the balance of the fire and water elements. Local and senatorial elections will be held soon, politics-related crimes are also expected. There will also be changes on government policies and systems and peace and order situation will improve. It should be stressed, however, that the political and economic stability of a country largely depends on the leadership of a nation," stresses Chao.

Lucky businesses

Chao says the Philippine economy is expected to recover. Businesses like real estate, construction, and stock market are expected to rise. Exchange rates will be stable. General

PIG/12


PHILAM MANAGED INCOME FUND, INC.
PHILAM STRATEGIC GROWTH FUND, INC.
PHILAM BOND FUND, INC.
PHILAM FUND, INC.
PHILAM DOLLAR BOND FUND, INC.
GSIS MUTUAL FUND, INC.
TURN LUCK INTO FORTUNE THIS NEW YEAR
Invest your lucky money in any of our six mutual funds as a way to abundance for many more new years to come.
PHILAM ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC. FUND PERFORMANCE
FUND

PHILAM ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC.

www.philamfunds.com

For more details and copies of the funds' prospectuses, call your Philam Group agent or counselor.

5F Philamlife (Salcedo) Building,
126 L.P. Leviste St. Salcedo Village, Makati City

Tel. Nos. Manila - (02) 817-PAMI (7264); Bacolod - (034) 433-9068; Baguio - (074) 619-2660
Batangas - (043) 723-6130; Cagayan de Oro - (08822) 710-480; Cebu - (032) 254-6859
Davao / General Santos - (083) 552-9190; Iloilo - (033) 336-0912

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of financial services:
Life and General Insurance • Property & Casualty Insurance • Health Care Management • Pre-Need Plans • Banking
Mutual Funds • Property Development • Credit Cards • Business Process Outsourcing • Bancassurance

AIG. A Member of American International Group, Inc.

Balance, harmony define Year of the Fire Pig

From page 11

services like tourism, transportation, food and refreshments, supermarket, fashion and designs, and the movie and television industry will also prosper. Agricultural businesses seem good. Businesses that are related to electronics and technologies are still in demand.

However, lumber, textile, garments, umbrellas, shoes, bags and plastic manufacturers will find it hard to take off. The Bureau of Customs and the Department of Labor and Employment should review their policies. They should also be efficient and effective in implementing their regulations. Otherwise, foreign investors would not have the confidence to put up their businesses in our country and many local manufacturers will be forced to close down.

Eventually, unemployment, strikes and poverty will get worse. This is a chain reaction. So to avoid these things to happen, it is advisable to review the policies and become more efficient and effective in implementation.

Pollution will still be the headache of the World Health Organization. Epidemic, like lung-related diseases, heart and kidney failures will also be rampant.

General guidelines

The lucky feng shui orientations are North and South. When constructing a house, replacing the altar, transferring the main entrance door/gate, or replacing a tomb, it should be facing these orientations (North and South) to be auspicious and favorable.

For your guidelines, the Year of the Fire Pig is in contrast with the Snake especially to those who were born in the years of Metal Snake (1941) and Water Snake (1953). In general, the luckiest personalities are those who were born under the signs of the Goat, Monkey, Rooster and Dog, with some exceptions. Unlucky personalities are those who were born under the signs of Ox, Tiger, Snake and Pig.

The lucky colors for fashion and design for the Fire Pig Year are red, pink, black, gray, blue and violet, which are based on the year's colors. The lucky colors and lucky gemstone (not birthstone) of a person are based on a person's birth date and time.

Chao is the former president of the International Institute of Chinese Esoteric Sciences Studies and a guest professor of Fuzhou Teacher College of Fujian, China. He took up Engineering, majoring in Metallurgy and Mathematics at the Mapua Institute of Technology and Feati University. He is also considered a master of Chinese literature and history.

His Institute is the only one in the Philippines recognized by the Department of Education to teach the authentic Chinese feng shui, physiognomy, palmistry, Chinese astrology, and Yi-Jing Divination.

He visited and lived in Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, where he astutely researched on Oriental Esoteric Sciences and Geomancy Sciences.

Fearless forecast

Chao says that despite continued efforts to unseat her, President Macapagal-Arroyo would be able to finish her term. Asked why it is so, Chao says that "it is in her destiny."

As for ousted President Joseph Estrada, Chao says that his political career is already dead and there is a very slim possibility or it may even be impossible for him to stage a comeback. No member of his family—wife or children—would also able to follow his footsteps, that is, to become President, he says.

Chao maintains that he predicted the downfall of ousted President Joseph Estrada through Edsa People Power II, as early as 1999.

He also claims that he correctly foretold the "Gulf War" to erupt in 1990 and it would end in February 1991. Using his Yi-jing Divination Method, he says he predicted many other important events as well.

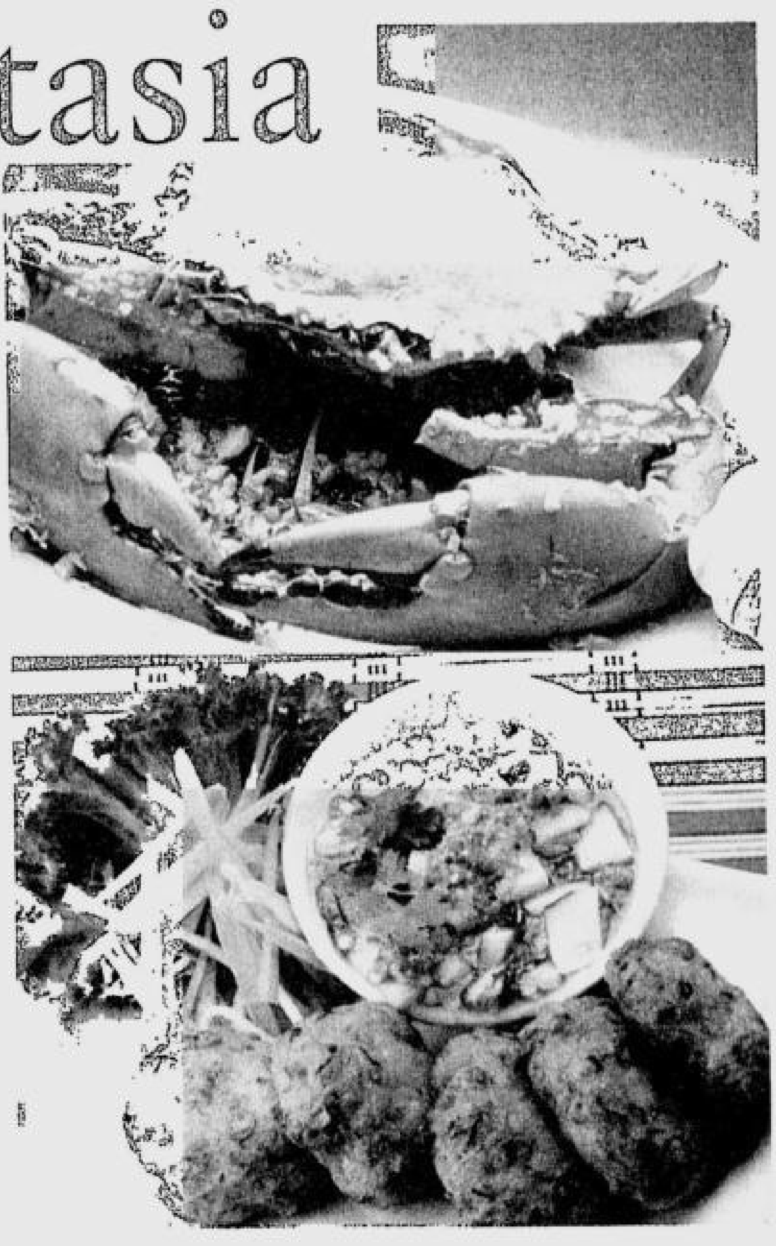
He advises our former leaders such as former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, and former first lady Imelda Ramos not to meddle anymore with the country's political affairs. He claims that we would be better off if they just stay in the sidelines.

Guidance only

Chao is currently the consultant of Heritage Memorial Park and the Shangri-La Group of Companies. He also renders feng shui services to prestigious companies like Ayala Properties, Philtown Properties, RFM, Rustan's, Kimberly-Clark, Toyota, BMW, Primary Structure in Cebu and SMWPI Wood Products Inc in Davao City.

He emphasizes the above analysis and guidelines are for references only. "If everyone wants to have a better life and a peaceful world, then he should learn how to change his bad attitudes. He should put into mind that greed and pride are still the two of the worst things that a person could have. Don't be controlled by these, learn how to manage temper, and with proper behavior and self-discipline then everyone will definitely succeed. Always remember that God helps good people and those who help themselves," concludes Chao.

Authentic Asian dishes at Crustasia



THIS CHINESE NEW YEAR, TAKE A TOUR OF Asia with authentic Asian cuisine at Crustasia Asian Crab and Seafood House.

Crustasia is a haven for the freshest seafood and the best of Vietnamese, Thai, and Singaporean cooking. It elevates the norm for freshness, making sure that most of its seafood is live before reaching the grill or the wok.

To ensure the authenticity of the dishes, Crustasia acquired the services of well-known and experienced chefs in each of the Asian dishes. The owners of Crustasia also run other specialty restaurants like Red Crab, Cocorama, Hula Hula, and more.

Bestsellers and must-haves are Crab Maritess, Singaporean Pepper Crab, and Szechuan Crab. Try the Asian Barbeque Roast, Chicken Pandan, Thai Barbeque Chicken, Thai Barbeque Ribs, Grilled US Rib Fingers with your choice of Nuc Mam Sauce or Chili Tamarind Sauce.

A must try soup, salad, rice selections and Crustasia's Grand Singaporean Seafood Buffet every Friday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Crustasia The Podium branch.

Crustasia is located at the ground level of the Rockwell Power Plant Mall in Makati City and at the third floor of The Podium, 18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Makati City with telephone numbers 728-5463 or 631-3857.

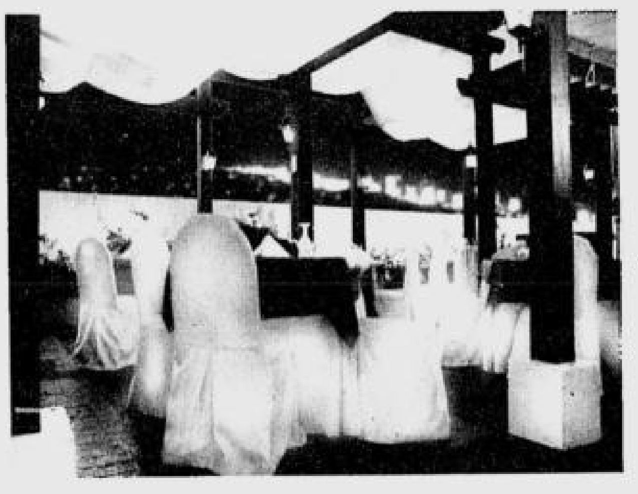
Welcome the Chinese New Year at Super Bowl of China

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR BECKONS at Super Bowl of China. And to celebrate this event believed to bring benevolence and good luck, the restaurant known to serve filling portions of the best Cantonese food, offers discounts on the occasion's most famous token giveaway to complete the festivities.

From Feb. 10 to 25, a P500 single receipt, one time dine-in purchase entitles Super Bowl of China customers to a 10 percent discount on delicious, select Eng Bee Tin Tikoy variants in all outlets. Enjoy this sweet treat with Super Bowl's mouth-watering fare such as the Steamed Fish Fillet with Garlic, Sliced Beef with Broccoli, Szechuan Shrimp, Hakao, Crispy Noodles with Assorted Seafood and Lemon Chicken with its sweet and tangy lemon sauce.

Moreover, the first 100 customers who celebrate the first day of the Chinese New Year at any Super Bowl of China branch with a single receipt dine-in purchase of P500 will get a free Super Bowl Chinese Pig keychain for good luck.

Start the Chinese New Year with great food and fun only at Super Bowl of China with branches located at Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati; Jupiter Street, Makati; Festival Mall, Alabang; SM City North Edsa; SM Megamall Megastrip; SM City San Lazaro; Blue Wave, Marikina; Gateway Mall, Araneta Center; Roxas Boulevard, corner UN Avenue; Blue Wave Macapagal Avenue, Pasay City; and at the SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Also visit the affiliated Big Buddha Restaurant located at Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center, Makati. For authentic Chinese food delivered fresh and hot at your doorstep, call the Super Bowl of China Super Delivery Hotline at 737-8888.



PARQUE ESPAÑA WELCOMES THE CHINESE NEW YEAR
Parque España welcomed and celebrated Chinese New Year with live music, sumptuous buffet, and amazing fireworks at Bistro Del Cielo yesterday. A memorable way of saying 'thank you' to its loyal guests and valued clients.

The finest Chinese New Year at Shangri-La

SHANGRI-LA FINEST CHINESE CUISINE, the popular Chinese restaurant which has been known for cooking up mouth-watering Oriental dishes for over a decade, has yet another special gastronomical treat for this most important Chinese holiday, the Chinese New Year.

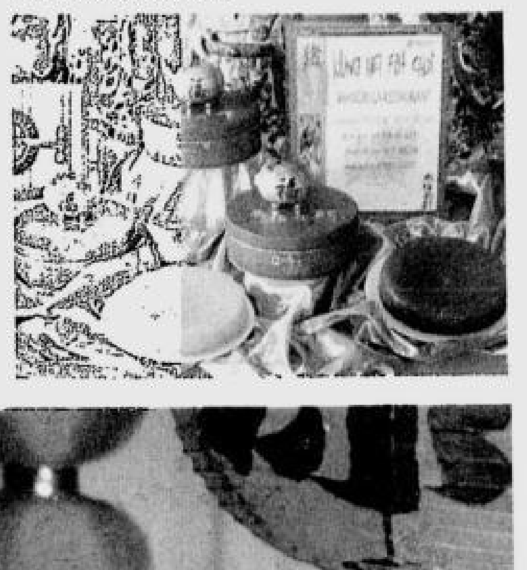
Come and join the revelry as Shangri-La welcomes the Year of the Fire Pig with a spectacular burst of colorful fireworks and an extravagant dragon dance exhibition on Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

Accompanying the grand festivities of the Chinese New Year is a delightful selection of three set menus especially prepared for this festive occasion: Long Life, Prosperity, and Happiness. Each set menu consists of eight scrumptious dishes and two delectable desserts made with the choicest and freshest ingredients from both local and international sources. Each dish is expertly made with the same culinary excellence Shangri-La has been known for through the years.

Celebrating the Chinese New Year at Shangri-La is not complete without Shangri-La's very own special tikoy. Priced at P180 per tin, this irresistibly sweet and chewy dimsum is free with every purchase of any of Shangri-La's finest Chinese New Year Set Menus.

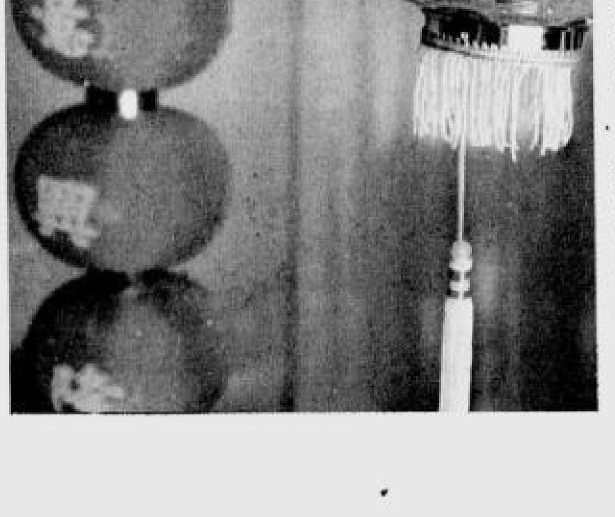
Savor more of Shangri-La's festive flavors with specialties from Chef's Suggestions such as baked butterfly prawns with cheese and butter, mixed diced vegetables with cashew nuts, and sliced beef and tendon with chili. All guaranteed to make your Chinese New Year at Shangri-La a distinctive dining experience.

Shangri-La Finest Chinese Cuisine is located at 4 Times Street, West Triangle, Quezon City. For reservations and a complete list of set menus, call 3739888 or visit www.shangrilafinestcuisine.com.



Kung hei fat choy!

IMAGINE YOURSELF... TRANSPORTED back in time, as centuries-old traditions unfold before you. Join Cafe Astoria as it rings in the "Year of the Pig". Treat your family and friends to an authentic Chinese lunch buffet at the Café Astoria for only P600++/person. Your favorite roast suckling pig, steaming dimsum, tikoy, traditional Chinese dishes and fortune cookies add to the fun. Available at Cafe Astoria from Feb. 15 to 18. Astoria Plaza is ideally located at 15 J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Avenue), Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries, call 687-1111. E-mail: sales@astoriaplaza.com, website: www.astoriaplaza.com. Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts.



Eastwood City hosts 4th Psychics' Festival

A MUCH AWAITED EVENT RETURNS for the fourth time, as Eastwood City hosts the fourth Psychics' Festival this Feb. 17-23.

The timing of this event is appropriate, as the country joins the Chinese New Year celebrations on Feb. 18. It is also the time when people are eager to look into their future with the help of psychics or divination consultants.

"Every time we held this event for the past two years, the next staging becomes bigger and bigger. After our first Psychics' Festival two years ago, we immediately held another one two months after because of the strong demand from the public. This year, we're hoping to shatter our previous attendance records," noted Megaworld Corp marketing communications manager Antonette Gonzales.

"We're again bringing in more than a dozen divination consultants, who are well-versed with three or more divination tools. Our clients can look forward to a fun Psychics' Festival and of course to knowing more about their future this year," she added.

The festival will feature exactly a dozen divination tools. These are the transforming tool of Saiwala cards, the very popular Tarot and the mystical Angel cards. Clients can also get a Palm reading and a Handwriting analysis. Those who seek assistance in making major life decisions can opt for numerology, while Aura reading can help diagnose diseases and Runes help uncover mysteries and secrets.

Other readings on offer are Dream interpretation, pendulum reading and astrology. The last is especially apt for the Chinese New Year celebrations: Feng Shui reading courtesy of Feng Shui master Dr. Andy Tan. "I will give mini seminars and of course be available for consultations so that people will find harmony at home and in the office... and bring prosperity to their lives," Dr. Tan noted.

Anyone who needs life, fortune and career guidance better go to Eastwood City's Psychics' Festival from Feb. 17-23 from 6 to 9 p.m. Call 687-6770 to 74 or text (0917) 8EWCITY for more details.

Hungry Dragon breathes fire

NEW BALANCE UNVEILED THE FIERY 574 Hungry Dragon footwear range, a compelling limited edition collection designed solely for the Asian consumer market.

The 574 is from New Balance's famous classics collection and the Hungry Dragon comes in three different stunning colours: garden green, blackberry purple and midnight black. Each shoe features a fire-breathing gold dragon that stretches from the medial to lateral side of the shoe.

The Hungry Dragon series was unveiled at a private viewing and cocktail reception at Hong Kong's trendy Dragon-i nightclub in the heart of Lan Kwai Fong. "This is an incredibly exciting program for us, the 574 Hungry Dragon series is one of the most innovative and inspirational collections we have tailor made for our Asian consumer market," announced Qing Ni, New Balance's regional marketing manager, Asia Pacific. "We are expecting a big rush when it launches in-store at the beginning of March, especially as only 574 pairs are being made globally - we anticipate the collection will sell out quickly."

At the event New Balance also unveiled an exciting new clothing venture to raise funds for Unicef - a limited edition 574 Hungry Dragon crossover with fashion label Yoropiko. The denim jackets and jeans, worn at the launch party by celebrity DJ Eric Kot, feature the Hungry Dragon design and only 50 sets will be produced globally and auctioned on e.Bay with a reserve bid of HK$18,000 per set. The online auction will start in March and bids can be placed by accessing www.574hungrydragon.com.

The stunning dragon feature by New Balance designer, Andrew Nyssen, was created on his memories of a Dragon Dance he had once seen during a Chinese New Year parade in his native America. "I've always been totally intrigued by the magnificent Dragon costumes and as we first started working on this project during last Chinese New Year, the inspiration and creative ideas behind the Hungry Dragon design came together very naturally," he explained.

Within Asia Pacific, the collection will be distributed in Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and China. Each shoe will be launched separately, one each week. The 574 Hungry Dragon green shoes will be available on March 3; the black colour on March 10; and the purple version on March 17. The shoes also come in a specially designed gift box, featuring the Hungry Dragon graphic. The 574 Hungry Dragon green shoes will be launched on March 3, with a retail price of P9,995 at the New Balance Concept Stores in Glorietta, Shangri-la, Planet Sports Greenhills, and Shoe Salon East Wood, Power Plant Rockwell, and Mall of Asia.

zNh
Zhongnannhai
CHINESE BISTRO
中南海

SPECIAL CHINESE DISHES FROM ZHONGNANNHAI CHINESE BISTRO

Zhongnannhai Chinese Bistro, known for bridging the contemporary and the traditional Chinese cuisine and culture welcomes the New Year with exquisite and authentic Chinese dishes. Chef's special menu includes Xiao long pao crab roe, barbecued pork combination for appetizers; assorted dried seafood soup with shredded abalone, stewed dried oyster with sea moss in brown sauce, live garoupa steamed with minced bean, deep-fried shrimp ball combined with crispy milk roll, stir-fried broccoli with fresh crabmeat sauce, steamed lotus leaves fried rice, pan fried Chinese tikoy and chilled sweetened mango sago with pomelo for dessert. All this for only P3,280++ for 4-6 persons. ZNH is open daily for lunch and dinner. It is located at the G/F Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center Makati City. For inquiries and reservations, call 758-1111.

Auspicious celebrations at the Mall of Asia

DUMPLINGS BRING CLOSER TIES WITHIN the family... chicken symbolizes wholeness and prosperity ... fish mean abundance for the coming year. These are some of the things to keep in mind when celebrating Chinese New Year.

The Year of the Pig has arrived, so plan a sumptuous and auspicious dinner with friends and family at the SM Mall of Asia's Chinese restaurants. Mann Hann, Mandarin Wok, David's Tea House, Good Earth Restaurant and Highlands China Palace have prepared special dishes for good beginnings.

Mann Hann Restaurant which is located at the Arcade of the North Building recommends a serving of Chami Noodles and Soup with one's Chinese New Year feast. Noodles, after all, are a symbol of long life and Mann Hann's home made wheat chami noodles are served with pork, kikiam, mushrooms, fish balls and assorted vegetables.

Mandarin Wok, which serves a variety of Chinese dishes, suggests Szechuan Eggplant in a pot with ground pork and chili sauce; and baked chicken Hong Kong style. Chicken is said to symbolize wholeness and prosperity for the Chinese.

David's Tea House, which is known for its modern Chinese restaurant ambience, has an assorted dimsum collection which literally "touches your heart". It is believed that dumplings-hakaw, shrimp siomai, beef balls, four seasons scallop, and shark's fin - bring "closer ties, warmer affection and prosperity within the family"; while fried spring rolls, which resemble gold or silver bullion symbolizing wealth.

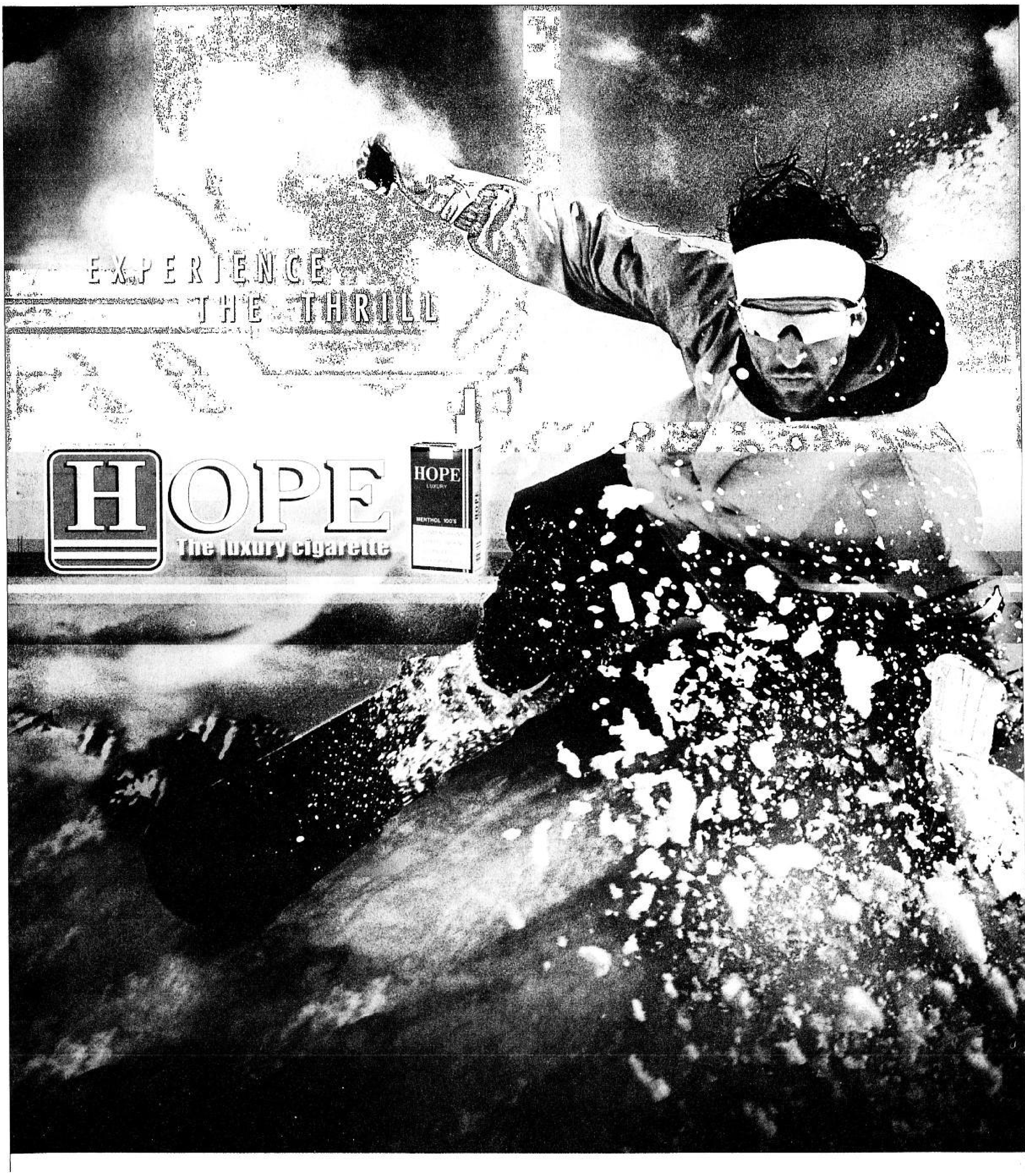
Located at the South Arcade of the Mall of Asia, David's Tea House also suggests steamed red lapu-lapu, as fish symbolizes abundance for the coming year; as well as golden seafood roll, sizzling squid with black bean sauce and sliced beef broccoli.

Good Earth Restaurant has good food offerings for Chinese New Year. It recommends duck fillet with prawns, as duck symbolizes fidelity and steamed pampano with rice, as fish symbolizes abundance in Chinese culture.

Highlands China Palace brings the specialties from its Tagaytay Highlands Restaurant to the mall. For the coming Year of the Pig it recommends its 3 way Peking duck, braised whole Calmex Abalone with rich oyster sauce and stuffed wintermelon rings with prawns steamed to perfection with crab roe. Melons are a symbol of family unity, as they hold out the wish that the family will, like the moon, stay round, large, whole and also united. Prawns, on the other hand, represent laughter, while oranges stand for wealth and prosperity.

If you are celebrating Chinese New Year at the Mall of Asia, join in the festivities on Sunday, Feb. 18. Feng Shui expert Maritess Allen will enlighten you about your fortune for the coming year at the Main Mall at 4 p.m. Enjoy a Chinese Fan Dance performance at the Main Mall lobby at 5 p.m. by the Halili-Cruz Ballet Company, which has successfully represented the Philippines in international competitions in Asia, Australia and the US. Welcome the Chinese New Year with a dragon and lion dance at 6 p.m. and cap the evening with a spectacular Chinese Pyromusical Display at the Esplanade at 7 p.m.

Mann Hann, Mandarin Wok, David's Tea House, Good Earth Restaurant, and Highlands China Palace are located at the Mall of Asia.



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

New officers aim for better, stronger Pana in 2007

ALVAREZ

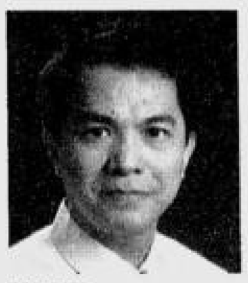
CAMPOS

CANILAS

DE ASIS

GARCIA

LABAYEN


LUTIAN

MACATANGAY

MALLARI

MANIO

MERCADO

PADILLA

PINEDA

POZON

PUNO

QUIOGUE

SANTOS

YABYABIN

THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF national Advertisers (Pana), the oldest and biggest association in the advertising industry, recently inducted its new set of officers for 2007. The ceremony was held at The Conservatory, The Peninsula Manila Jan. 29.

Elected Pana president Raul S. Alvarez (AVP-retail marketing services, PLDT) leads the Pana board of directors composed of vice president lawyer Gafar E. Lutian (senior legal counsel, external relations group, P&G Distributing (Philippines)), secretary lawyer Danilo Macatangay (director for legal and external affairs, J&J Philippines), treasurer Maricar Yabyabin (marketing manager, Abbott Laboratories), auditor Marie Angelyn V. Padilla (marketing services manager, Sara Lee Philippines), PRO Charmaine Canillas (advertising and promotions manager, Petron Corp), directors Jones T. Campos, (head, public relations, Globe Telecom), Dr. Karen de Asis (marketing director, De La Salle Professional Schools), Yasmin Mallari (media manager, Coca-Cola Export Corp), Weena Pineda (AVP, consumer marketing, Splash Corp), and Sandra C. Puno (VP, media relations, Nestle Philippines).

Meanwhile, former Pana president Blen M. Fernando (VP, marketing, Alaska Milk Corp) has been elected as chair of the Pana Foundation (Panaf). She leads the Panaf board of trustees composed of vice chair Roberto F. Banaag (first vice president, corporate communications, Plantersbank), secretary Gigi J. Tibi (marketing and visual merchandising head, Golden ABC Inc (Penshoppe)), PRO Robert Labayen (vice president, creative communication management, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp), trustees Ma. Elena M. Dayrit (president, Gold's Gym), Cristina D. Esguerra (division manager, marketing services, Ayala Land Inc), Dr. Leonardo Garcia Jr (professor, De La Salle University), Charlie B. Manio (advertising and media director, Cebu Pacific Air), Grace Mercado (marketing services manager, Commonwealth Foods Inc), Marilyn C. Pozon (marketing services manager, Monde Nissin Corp), and Manuel P. Quiogue (president, GMA Marketing & Productions Inc).

'Youth and experience'

The occasion was keynoted by Leo Obias, president of Sara Lee Philippines Inc: He also inducted both the 2007 Pana board of officers and Panaf board of trustees into office. In his speech, Obias shared his thoughts and impressions about the Pana leadership, its achievements, and contributions to the industry and to the society in general. "The Board is composed of some energetic youth and some ripened with experience." he said. "I believe, a diverse leadership team is usually bound to succeed. Further, a diverse team produces balanced results." he added.

He personally congratulated the former Pana headship for a productive and triumphant year amidst all the challenges. "2006 was a difficult year for the industry. Consumer spending was weak, costs of fuel and utilities were high, and markets were crowded. With such business environment, it is easy to forget our social responsibilities. It is tempting to short change our consumers, trade partners, and the general public." he said. "Our respective organizations do not have the time, resources, or power to solve all ills in the society. A more viable way to merge business objectives and social responsibility is to select the most relevant social issues to our respective business." He added. "The Pana board set a good example of merging business needs and making moral contributions to society. Despite limited time, resources, and other challenges, the Pana leadership continues to effectively advocate and develop one aspect in social responsibility, which is 'Truth in Advertising'." he concluded.

During the induction program, incoming Pana president Alvarez also presented his plans for the coming year. "Pana will harness all of its strengths and synergies with all associations within the industry. We will continue to take care of our members ensuring that their interests are always protected and industry developments always cascaded." he said.

He requested the incoming board to stand before the Pana constituency and pledge to yet another hard-working year. "We will ensure that all our endeavors will always be consumer-centric in advocating 'Truth in Advertising.'" he concluded.

Pana is a non-stock, non-profit organization formed by advertisers for advertisers. It is the only 300-plus member strong organization in the country that unites the users of advertising whose member companies belong to every major industry in the country.

Under the able leadership of its former president of two consecutive years, Fernando, Pana has become stronger than ever, being an active voice in the industry, spearheading dialogues with the government, media, and various organizations. It has issued official statements on contentious issues concerning its members, as well as resolving conflicts on various issues within and outside of the organization.

Key opinion, info leader

Pana is the industry's key opinion and information leader. Its continuing educational programs such as the monthly general membership meetings (GMMs), the annual sector meetings, the Pana Convention, and the Pana MBA Series, are in conjunction with its business partners in media and the advertising suppliers, providing information on new and alternative ways to grow their businesses under the present economic conditions.

Pana's quest for excellence continues to grow with the computerization of its existing transaction systems and processes and the upgrading of its Secretariat to serve the needs of its members with speed and excellence. Pana is the first and only AdBoard member organization to utilize an online voting system for its annual election of officers, as well as come up with an official trade publication that serves the entire community of Philippine-based advertisers-the Ad-Edge Magazine. Pana also leads the AdResearch Committee on the first-ever Commercial Threshold Study, with the final reports targeted for release by mid-April 2007.

Panaf, on the other hand, is the organization's advocacy campaigns and industry relations arm. Panaf organizes the Annual Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) Student Competition Awards-a nationwide student competition that is geared towards the professional advancement of college students in the fields of Communications Arts, Marketing, Business Administration, and Advertising Management. The Foundation also offers a 6-module Post Baccalaureate Diploma Program in Marketing Communications Management in partnership with De La Salle-College of St. Benilde (DLS-CSB), and soon with the De La Salle-Graduate School of Business (DLS-GSB). The program aims to develop and train students' analytical and creative planning skills through the integration of the Decision Support System.

Panaf, under its own board of trustees, has for its members not only current Pana member-company representatives but even former Pana members and officers who have retired from corporate world or have gone into their own businesses.

The ABCs of real estate investing

A SERIES OF LECTURES ON THE different how tos of investing in real estate will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate for prospective investors, developers, landowners and realty professionals who are expected to gain sufficient insights and confidence to finally implement proposed real estate investments. As real estate is now showing strong signs of recovery, participants will learn the ABCs of real estate principles and avoid costly mistakes that were normally suffered by inexperienced investors, and guiding them to a pleasant and successful real estate business.

Numerous issues concerning real estate investment such as opportunities, legal aspects, joint ventures, government rules, property management, taxation and marketing would be discussed in this series of seminars which would be conducted every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 1:30 to 6 p.m., starting March 5 to 21 at the Maximo Function Room, second floor, Max's Restaurant, near Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

The topics, which may be attended separately and are all stand alone are as follows: March 5 - Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques & What are Needed to Learn before Investing; : March 7 - Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects; March 9 - Management of Rental Properties: How to Maximize Income of Rental Properties; March 12 - Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease with Contract Documentation and Registration; March 14 - How to Start and Manage A Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company; March 16 - Property Development Principles and Updates on HLURB Rules and Regulations; March 19 - Making Big Money in Distressed Properties; March 21 - Taxation of Real Estate Transactions.

This lecture series is accredited by DTI for CEP compliance and will have as lecturers lawyer Dennis Tablizo, noted resource speaker on land laws; and engineer Enrico Cruz, who has more than 40 years in real estate, engineering, construction, management and education. Cruz is also a licensed real estate consultant and 1st and 8th placer in the real estate appraiser's and broker's board examinations respectively, and was invested as a "Real Estate Fellow" by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

For other details or advance registration, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or 0916-4269174/0921-6839431, or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Bose innovative sound engineering

AS A FOLLOW UP TO ITS COMMERCIALLY successful Quiet Comfort2 headphones, Bose is set to make technological inroads once again with its newest line of noise canceling technology headsets. Eleksis Marketing, the exclusive distributors of Bose products in the Philippines, is introducing the all new QuietComfort 3 Acoustic Noise Cancelling headphones, which features a small, light on-ear design. The advanced engineering of the QC3 brings you the same acclaimed level of performance and convenience as the QC2 headphones.

Ultimate Mobility magazine was quoted as saying, "Bose's noise-reducing QuietComfort headphones have been the gold standard for years." Now the QC3 headphones extend this standard to new levels of performance and portability. For the first time, Bose research gives you the option of lightweight on-ear headphones with the same noise reduction and audio quality as QC2 around-ear headphones.

The new acoustic design with soft memory ear cups create a gentle seal on your ear to block unwanted noise and enable the unit to deliver high quality audio with deep low notes.

The full-spectrum noise reduction found in QC3 headphones dramatically reduces jet engine roar-and helps fade other distractions into the background. Just connect these headphones to portable players, computers and in-flight systems for audio so detailed you may hear nuances you've never noticed before. Its electronic design provides active electronic noise reduction to help fade unwanted distractions.

QC3 headphones also feature a more compact design, has a lightweight headband, a single detachable cable and a new rechargeable battery and charger. It is so flexible that it can also be used with most MP3-enabled phones through Bose's optional Cell Connect kit.

Based on an original design for the US military, QuietComfort headphones is an effective gadget whenever noise is a problem: on buses or trains, in the office, even at home. Bose engineers enhanced the convenience and portability features of the QuietComfort headsets to make them even easier to enjoy in a variety of environments.

Whether you take them on a trip or to the office, the QuietComfort 2 and 3 series headphones are designed to fold flat to store easily in a bag or briefcase. A single detachable audio cable gives you easy access to portable players like Apple's I Pod, home stereos, and in-flight entertainment systems, all with less tangling than two-cable designs. That same cable can be removed so your headphones can go "cordless" when you simply want the benefits of noise reduction. It is also perfect for air travel.

To experience the absolute in noise canceling technology, call Eleksis Marketing at 724-9566/898-2048 or visit Bose showrooms at the R3 Level of the PowerPlant Mall, 3rd Level of the SM Megamall and the 3rd Floor of Robinsons Place, Manila.

Conversations on a golf classic

EVERYTHING IS SET FOR THE 2007 COCA-Cola Golf Classic on Feb. 22 at the Riviera Golf & Country Club in Silang, Cavite. This is the fourth year of the charity tournament which aims to raise funds for the Little Red Schoolhouse (LRS) program of the Coca-Cola Foundation. The LRS program works to deliver quality education to rural schoolchildren.

Last year, the overall team champion of the Golf Classic ,was Team Club Marinduque headed by no less than the owner of the Gasan, Marinduque beachfront resort himself, Felix Cortez. This was actually the second win for Club Marinduque who also won in 2005. This year, Club Marinduque is once again a part of the Golf Classic to hopefully cinch another victory and of course, to help build schools for the nation's children.

Play hard!

"Why do I like playing golf? I play it when I want to have peace of mind," shared Felix. "I always like to tee off at about 6 in the morning. That's when there's not much people around. I always tell my children if I want to decide on something, I go to the golf course by myself. While I walk, while I play, it gives me time to think."

"The Coca-Cola Golf Classic appealed to me first because it's Coca-Cola. We all know what Coca-Cola is. Second, it's for a worthy cause. A lot of my golfing friends know that when I am asked to help a golf tournament which is for charity, I always help. And the Coca-Cola Golf Classic is one of the golf tournaments I really support," explained Felix.

"The other thing with Coke is that it's a team event—it's not an individual event. There's room for failure. Unlike in individual play, if you don't play well during the day, you're gone. In the four to play—three to count, one can play bad for the day and you still have a chance of winning."

Felix shared that a unique thing about the Coca-Cola Golf Classic is its choice of course. "It's always at the Riviera, specifically at the Langer Course. That's one of the most difficult courses. They really stick to doing it there and it's really challenging. For us average golfers, it's not a joke to play there. So when you win something at the Langer Course, it's really something."

Ready. Set. Tee!

Felix is thrilled to be part of the tournament again. As he shared, "What am I looking forward to this year? I hope we will win again. No, I'm kidding, I don't think we will win. I hope we will have a full field. I hope we will have sponsors to help this worthy cause and I hope we have good weather too. I would like to see the maximum number of people playing at the event because if we are successful it means that we will be helping a lot of children."

"Thank you very much Coca-Cola for what you have started. And I am happy to know that you are still carrying on with your cause and as long as I can help, I will be a part of it."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of R-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
e-mail address:main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph
Main Office: Pasong Tamo, Makati City
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Quezon City
☎ 9129008-11 Fax 9129011
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
Classifieds Hotline: ☎ 637-2008
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2007 J1

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Public Estates Authority)
7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg.,
107 Paseo de Roxas St., Legaspi Village, 1226 City of Makati
Tel. Nos. (02) 817-4711 to 18; (02) 813-1441 to 45
Facsimile No.: (02) 815-2662
Website: www.pea.gov.ph • Email: info@pea.gov.ph

Final Notice

Subject: Last Day for Filing Application to Regularize Unauthorized/Illegal Reclamation is 28 February 2007

The Philippine Reclamation Authority or PRA (formerly Public Estates Authority), is hereby issuing this advisory that there will no longer be further extension of the abovementioned deadline which is actually the second extension of the original deadline set under the PRA Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 2005-1.

Applications, letters of intent or similar documents received at the PRA office on or before 28 February 2007 or post-marked 28 February 2007 shall be considered for proccessing under the aforecited A.O. PRA's address is 7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Thereafter, unauthorized/illegal reclamations shall be forfeited in favor of the National Government pursuant to Presidential Decree 3-A, Presidential Decree 1084, as amended, and Executive Order 543 delegating full Presidential power for PRA to approve all reclamation projects. The PRA actions shall be done in collaboration with the Office of the President, DOJ, OGCC, DENR and the DILG.

For compliance.

Philippine Reclamation Authority

By:
ANDREA D. DOMINGO
General Manager/CEO

Noted:
Hon. RAMON B. REVILLA, SR.
Chairman of the Board

(PDI - Feb. 1, 4, 11 & 18, 2007)

Knightgold Properties, Inc.
Unit 505, 5/F, One Magnificent Mile - Citra
No. 39 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605, Philippines

CALL NOW!!! (02) 6375439 / 6376307

CODE	LOCATION / DESCRIPTION	SELLING PRICE (Php)
PRIME PROPERTY FOR SALE	E. Rodriguez Sr., Ave. corner Monte de Piedad Street Brgy. Immaculate Concepcion, Cubao, Quezon City; Lot Area = 2,183 sq. m. With improvements Building 1: Three (3) storey; FA = 1,200 sq. m. Building 2: Three (3) storey with penthouse; FA = 2,000 sq. m. Building 3: Three (3) storey; FA = 380 sq. m.	104,305,000.00
	N. Domingo Street, San Juan, Metro Manila one (1) storey concrete building (Office Building)Lot Area = 490sq. m.; Floor Area = 185sq. m.	12,600,000.00
KPI 267	Unit 102 Regalia Park, Tower B., P. Tuazon, Cubao, Quezon City Floor Area = 54.04 sq. m. Commercial/Office Condo	2,860,000.00
KPI 266	Unit 205, 2nd floor Bayview Tower I, Roxas Boulevard, Parañaque City Residential Unit / Floor Area 105 sq. m.	2,950,000.00
KPI 273	Unit No. 206-B Hamilton Condominium Bldg., Lakeview Manors Condominium Complex, Phase 2, Bagong Calzada, Bo. of Ususan, Taguig, Metro Manila Improved by Two (2) Bedroom Type Residential Condominium with Floor Area = 37.50 sq. m. Drying Area (Roofdeck) with Floor Area = 6.50 sq. m.	1,550,150.00
KPI 193	No. 140, G. Reyes Street, Balong Bato, San Juan, Metro Manila Interior lot; single-storey residential building with covered carport; 4 bedrooms and 2 T & Bs. Lot Area = 250 sq. m.; Floor Area =154.10 sq. m.	1,950,000.00
KPI 282	Lot 10 Block 14, Cotton Drive, Cottonwoods Heights, Antipolo City Two (2) Storey Residential Building; Lot Area = 213 sq. m.; Total Floor Area = 112.50 sq. m.	2,629,350.00
KPI 296	Lot 9 Block 3, Trails of La Marea, San Antonio, San Pedro, Laguna Two (2) Storey Residential Building; Lot Area = 226 sqm.; Floor Area = 177 sq. m.	2,880,000.00
KPI 308	Lot 25 Block 84, Laguna Bel-Air Subd., Sta. Rosa, Laguna Single Storey Residential Bldg. with loft floor. Lot Area = 110 sq. m.; Floor Area = 84 sq. m.	1,380,000.00
KPI 310	Lot 3 Block 4, Madelaine Place, Springville City, Barrio Molino, Bacoor City Two (2) Storey Residential Building; Lot Area = 120 sq. m.; Floor Area = 75 sq. m.	1,200,000.00
KPI 55	Lot 10, Block 1, Mission Hills., Brgy. Muzon, Angono, Rizal; Vacant Lot: Lot Area = 894 sq. m.	2,771,400.00
KPI 194	Lot 33, Block 12, Cityview Dasmariñas III Subdivision, Bo. Malinta, Dasmariñas, Cavite Vacant lot: Lot Area = 592 sq. m.	1,090,000.00
KPI 271	Lot 7 Block 30 Stateland Subdivision, Phase I, Buenavista, General Trias, Cavite City Vacant Lot: Lot Area = 523 sq. m.	630,000.00
KPI 294	Lot 27 Block 22 Cypress St., Manila Southwood, Ph. 3, Brgy. Cabilang Baybay, Carmona Cavite. Vacant Lot: Lot Area = 524 sq. m.	2,780,000.00
KPI 222	Pennsylvania corner Utah Streets, Town & Country Southville Subd., Biñan, Laguna Vacant Lot: Lot Area = 262 sq. m.	735,000.00

- Prices, interest rates and terms are subject to change without prior notice.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The **BUYER** receives and accepts the property on an **"AS-IS WHERE-IS"** basis. "AS-IS WHERE-IS" basis shall mean that the **SELLER** makes no warranty as to the quality and physical condition of the property and that the **BUYER** buys and takes it in the condition that it is found and from the place where it is located, as well as all legal actions and encumbrances on the property that the **BUYER** knows or ought to know.
2. Buyers are enjoined to personally inspect / investigate/verify the actual site, condition, and status of the real properties and improvements, if any, and chattels as well as all the documents of ownership with the appropriate Register of Deeds before formally submitting their offers.
3. Properties will be sold on a **"FIRST-COME FIRST–SERVE BASIS"**. The term "first–come, first–serve" shall mean any offer to purchase in cash based on the price indicated herein shall be given first priority. Offer to purchase thru term financing via Bank loan shall be evaluated for management approval.
4. Knightgold Properties, Inc. reserves the right to reject any offer to purchase, which are below the price indicated herein. The decision of Knightgold Properties, Inc. is final and binding.
5. **The Indicated Selling Prices are exclusive of 12% VAT.**

ALL BROKERS ARE WELCOME!!!

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITION
In Compliance With RA 7041

Finance and Administrative Office
Assistant Ombudsman

Item No. OMBA-AO-2-2003 SG 29

Education: Bachelor's Degree; Experience: 3 years of supervisory experience; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE) / Career Executive Service (CES)*

*NOTE: Consistent with the Decision of the Supreme Court in G.R. No. 159940 in February 16, 2005, Career Executive Service (CES) / Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE) is not a mandatory qualification requirement for this vacancy.

Applicants should submit within ten (10) calendar days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212)
3) 1" x 1" picture, colored
4) *Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility
5) *Transcript of Records
6) *Certificates of Seminars/Trainings attended;
7) *Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the position assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) *Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

*Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the original to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is seeking **Architectural/Engineering (A/E)** Firms to submit Standard Form (SF) 330, Architect-Engineer Qualifications for evaluation in relation to the award of an Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) A/E contract.

The IDIQ contract shall be for architectural and engineering services for one basic year with a government option to extend the term of the contract one year at a time, not to exceed five years total. The contracts will require a multi-discipline team with a background in the design of physical and security projects as well as health care environment design. Typical project work may include new construction, general building renovations such as repair/replace roofs, windows, doors, ceilings, floors, rest rooms, exterior/interior building finishes, office space realignment, HVAC systems and components, plumbing systems and components, electrical systems, but not limited to these disciplines.

The SF-330 should provide sufficient information to allow for evaluation of relevant experience physical/security projects and healthcare environment design. Selection of firms for interview and negotiation shall be through an order of preference based on demonstrated competence and qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of the type of professional services required, that include (1) past performance capabilities; (2) specialized experience and technical competence, as required in the health care environment; (3) capacity to accomplish the work in the required time; (4) past performance on contracts with respect to cost control, quality of work, and compliance with performance schedules; (5) any other special qualification required under this announcement by the contracting activity.

Firms that meet the requirements described in this announcement are invited to submit SF 330 to the Contracting Officer, US Department of Veterans Affairs 2201 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City by close of business March 16, 2007. For inquiries, please call 833-4566 to 69 ext. 8210.

For your Classified and Obituary Ads please call:
☎ 637-2008

Check out more jobs from Jobmarket Compact every Wednesday.
JOBMARKET COMPACT JOBMARKET

AMA BANK

THE LARGEST USED CAR LOAN BANK IN THE COUNTRY TODAY

MEMBER: **AMA GROUP OF COMPANIES**
NO. 1 RURAL BANK / NO. 1 CAR LOAN BANK
2004/2005 NATIONAL SHOPPERS' CHOICE AWARDEE
MOST OUTSTANDING RURAL BANK / CAR LOAN BANK
2004/2005 PHILIPPINE MARKETING EXCELLENCE AWARDEE
TOP CAR LOAN BANK
2005 NATIONAL CONSUMERS QUALITY AWARDEE
MOST OUTSTANDING RURAL BANK
2005 PHILIPPINE QUALITY AWARDS FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

USED CAR LOAN PROMO
SPECIAL INTEREST RATE AS LOW AS
7% p.a.
ACCEPTABLE YEAR MODELS
1993-2007

Also available:
AMA BANK
CAR - LATERAL LOAN
Cash Loan Using Your
CAR AS COLLATERAL!
Fast Processing and Check release.
For more details Pls. call at Tel. Nos.
413-5777 / 372-6698 / 372-6526 / 373-9913
416-8144/416-8145/373-3901 loc. 8302/8303/8220

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
FOR FEMALE APPLICANTS

DATA ENCODERS
DELIVERY & INVENTORY PLANNER
HR ASSISTANT
ACCOUNTING STAFF

GRADUATE in RESPECTIVE FIELD
PROFICIENT IN COMPUTER

WE GIVE GOOD COMPENSATION TO COMPETENT, HARD WORKING AND DEDICATED PEOPLE.

PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON AT:
158 P. SEVILLA ST., BETWEEN 6TH & 7TH AVES.,
GRACE PARK, CALOOCAN CITY
BRING RESUMÉ W/ 2X2 COLORED PHOTO, NBI CLEARANCE

JOBMARKET COMPACT Get more exposure for your ad. Advertise in JobMarket Compact *Inquire at 897-8808 loc 514.* JOBMARKET

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
sbma *Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)*
Bldg. 255, Rm. 223 Barryman Road,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
☎ (047) 252-4713 / 4483 • Fax No. (047) 252-4472

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid (IAEB)

Republic of the Philippines

ANNUAL PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROJECT within the Subic Bay Freeport Zone

The works to be undertaken under the contract shall consist of providing all labors, materials, permits, equipment and tools necessary to complete the Annual Pavement Maintenance Project and other related items of works to complete the project as fully described within the Contract Documents.

1. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ), through the project allocated funds from SBMA Corporate Budget for the Fiscal Year 2007, intends to apply the sum of **PhP 18 Million being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for **ANNUAL PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROJECT** within the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
2. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the works to be undertaken under the contract, which shall consist of providing all labors, materials, permits, equipments and tools necessary to complete the **Annual Pavement Maintenance Project** and other related items of works to complete the project as fully described within the Contract Documents. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before **February 26, 2007**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to -

   Atty. Ramon O. Agregado
   SDA for Support Services / BAC Chairman
   Bids and Awards Committee
   c/o Engineering Department
   Room 230, Bldg. 255
   Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone

   and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php2,000.00 to the SBMA Treasury Department. The Eligibility Documents shall be received personally by the Interested Bidders or his duly authorized represantative upon presentation of the LOI, original copy of valid contractor's license by PCAB and submission of certified true copy. **Applications for Eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis criteria** and only contractor applicants passing all the minimum criteria listed on the **Eligibility Data Sheet (EDS)** and **Qualification Information** shall be eligible to bid for the said project. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents is on **March 06, 2007 up to 5:00 p.m. only at the above address.**

   Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. The SBMA will inform all applicants on the result of their application.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." And is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before the time and date as indicated on the Notice of Eligibility Letter.
5. While the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) is open to all applications from qualified parties, SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in accordance with IRR-A Section 41 Reservation Clause of R.A. 9184.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RAMON O. AGREGADO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Feb. 18, 2007)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

LIVE & WORK in U.S.A.
LIVE & WORK in CANADA
LIVE & WORK in AUSTRALIA
LIVE & WORK in N.ZEALAND
LIVE & WORK in U.K.

BREAKING NEWS!!! 500 Skilled Workers in demand in 5 Best Worlds

* REGISTERED NURSE * PHYSICAL THERAPISTS * OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS * SPED TEACHER * SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPISTS * SCIENCE TEACHER * BILINGUAL STUDIES TEACHER * BUSINESS OWNERS * TRADERS * INVESTOR * NURSE AIDES, ORDERLIES * PATIENT ASSOCIATES * NURSE SUPERVISOR * OTHERS PROFESSIONALS IN HEALTH * RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS * CLINICAL PERFUSIONISTS * CARDIO PULMONARY TECHNOLOGISTS * LONG HAND TRUCK DRIVERS * LABOURERS IN PROCESSING & MANUFACTURING & UTILITIES * MACHINE OPERATORS & RELATED WORKERS IN TEXTILE PROCESSING * PATERN MAKERS TEXTILE HEALTH & FUR PRODUCTS

PARTIAL LISTING ONLY........

* ACCOUNTANT / AUDITORS * BOOKKEEPERS / FINANCIAL ANALYSTS * BANK & CREDIT MANAGERS * BANK & CREDIT MANAGERS * INSURANCE / REAL ESTATE AGENTS * HR / PERSONEL MANAGERS * EXECUTIVE SECRETARY / ASSTS. / LAW CLERKS * COMPANY MANAGERS * NURSES / DOCTORS / DENTISTS * MED TECH / MED REPRESENTATIVE * JOURNALISTS / EVENT PLANNERS * PURCHASING OFFICERS / AGENTS * RETAIL WHOLESALE- BUYERS / MGRS. * ENGINEERS (ALL FIELDS) * ARCHITECTS / DRAFTMEN * IND'L / INTERIOR DESIGNERS *ELECTRICIANS (INDUSTRIAL & POWER SYSTEM) * DENTIST / DENTAL TECHS. * REF & AIRCON MECHS. * ELEC'L /TEL. CABLE WORKERS * SUPERVISORS (GEN. & TECHNICAL) * MOTOR VEHICLE / AIRCRAFT MECHS. * FITTERS / FABRICATORS * SHEET METAL WORKERS / WELDER

PARTIAL LISTING ONLY........

* ACCOUNTANTS / IT PROFESSIONALS * CIVIL ENGINEERS * DENTIST / DOCTORS * HOSPITAL / RETAIL PHARMACISTS * O.T.s / P.T.s / PSYCHIATRISTS * REGISTERED MENTAL HEALTH NURSES * REGISTERED MIDWIVES / NURSES * SPECIALISTS PHYSICIANS * SONOGRAPHERS / SURGEONS * CHEFS / COOKS / PASTRY COOKS * AUTO ELECTRICIANS * CARPENTER & JOINERS * ELECTRICAL POWERLINE TRADEPERSON * ELECTRICIANS / TOOLMAKERS * FURNITURE UPHOLSTERERS * GENERAL ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT TRADES * HAIRDRESSERS * MOTOR MECHANICS * REF & AIRCON MECHANICS * SHEETMETAL WORKERS (FIRST CLASS) * VEHICLE PAINTERS * WELDERS (FIRST CLASS) * CABINETMAKERS

PARTIAL LISTING ONLY........

* ENGINEERS (ALL FIELDS) * AGRI MACHINE OPERATORS * FARM MANAGERS/ ASSISTANTS * ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS* AUTO MECHANICS * FOOD TECHS / DIETICIANS * CIVIL CAD / ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS * CLINICAL RESEARCHERS * CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE MANAGERS * DENTAL TECH / ASST. / THERAPISTS * ELEC'L ENGINEER TECH / MECHS. * TEACHERS (ALL LEVELS) * AGRONOMISTS / GROWERS MANAGERS * MED TECH / X-RAY TECHS.* NURSES / O.T.'s / P.T.'s * SONOGRAPHERS * FITTERS / WELDERS / PLUMBERS * FOREMAN (ROAD & INFRASTRUCTURE) * FURNITURE UPHOLSTEERS * IT SPECIALISTS * SHEET METAL WORKERS * SPECIALISTS-PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

PARTIAL LISTING ONLY........

* RAILWAY ENGINEERS * STRUCTURAL / BRIDGE ENGINEERS * TRANSPORTATION ENGRS. * HIGHWAY / STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS * GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERS * GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS * DOCTORS / SPECIALISTS * DENTAL PRACTITIONERS * PHARMACISTS / TECHNICIANS * SPEECH / LANGUAGE THERAPIST * AUDIOLOGISTS * MED LAB SCIENTIFIC OFFICER * CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS * DIETICIANS / NUTRITIONISTS * OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS * SOCIAL WORKERS * SENIOR PHYSIOTHERAPISTS * ULTRASONOGRAPHERS * RADIOGRAPHERS * VETERINARY SURGEONS * TEACHERS (ALL LEVELS) * GENERAL NURSE * IT PROFESSIONALS

PARTIAL LISTING ONLY........

Inclusive of Snacks & Visa Kit / Req:Comprehensive Resume & 2 x 2 Picture

Meet The Visa Specialists "LIVE @ AYALA"

on February 24, 2007(Saturday) @ Suite 402-B V. Madrigal Bldg.,6793 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

IMMIGRATION SEMINAR	TIME	DISCOUNTED RATE Pre-paid	STANDARD RATE Walk-in
USA	10:00 AM	PhP 1,200	PhP 1,500
CANADA / CAREGIVER	1:00 PM	PhP 1,000	PhP 1,250
AUS / NZ / UK	3:00 PM	PhP 1,200	PhP 1,500

INS IMMIGRATION NETWORK SERVICES, INC.

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL INS SECRETARIAT @
891-5686 to 89 / 891-5920 / 891-5922
ins-global @ i-manila.com.ph

PROVINCIAL SEMINAR Feb. 19 @ 2pm, Paskuhan Hotel, San Fernando, Pampanga, Call Miss Miles: 0918-9102994

THE DOOR TO LIVE & WORK IN USA IS OPEN

Let The Most Influential Visa Expert Handle Your Case

ATTN. ALL PROFESSIONALS (SKILLED/TECH./MEDICAL)

Specializing in the ff. visas

GREEN CARDS VISAS: Immediate relative of US citizens*Family petitions* Employment-based Green Cards*Labor Certification*Greencards for Nurses & special statuses*Investors Visa*Multinational Executive Visa.

TEMPORARY RESIDENCE VISAS: Tourist (B1 / B2)*Crew members (D)*Treaty trador / Investors (E1-E2) Working Visas (H-1B / H2 / H2-A/H2B)trainees(H-3)* Journalist(I)Student Visas(F-1,M-1),Exchange Visitors(J-1)*Fiance(E)Visas (K) Spouse Visa (K)*Intraco.Transferee Visas(L-1)*Parents of Unmarried Minors who are Special Immigrants(N-1 / N-2)*Extraordinary Ability Visas (O)*Athletes & performing artists Visas (P) Cultural Exchange Workers (Q)*Religious Worker Visas (R)]Spouse / Children of Permanents Residents.

OTHERS SERVICES: Business Extension Visas*Adjustment / Change of Status*Deportation Cases Review / Appeal of Denied Cases*Returning Residents Permits*Defense Againts Fraud Charges *Legalizing TNTs*Pending / Complicated Cases*Visa Job Search Opportunities for Professionals...

LIVE !!! on Feb.24, @ 10Am (Sat.) @ INS HEAD OFFICE @ Suite 402-B V. Madrigal Bldg.6793 Ayala Aven.Makati City

Seminar Fee: Pre-paid Php1,200 / Walk-in Php1,600 // (Inclusive of Snack,& Visa Kit,) Req..Comprehensive Res. & 2x2 Pic

PROVINCIAL SEMINAR Feb. 19 @ 2pm, Paskuhan Hotel, San Fernando, Pampanga, Call Miss Miles: 0918-9102994

INS IMMIGRATION NETWORK SERVICES, INC. FOR MORE DETAILS CALL INS SECRETARIAT @ 891-5686 to 89 / 891-5920 / 891-5924

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project
(National Project Management Office)
5/F Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : February 12, 2007
Loan No. : PH-P200

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, guidance and faculty rooms of the different secondary schools in the Division Office of Surigao del Sur, following the schedules below:

Division Office	Issuance of Bid Documents	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Conference	Date & Time of Bid Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
Surigao del Sur	March 1, to March 8, 2007	March 12, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.	March 20, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.	DepED Division Office of Surigao del Sur, Tandag, Surigao del Sur	(086) 211-3970

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools in the Division of Surigao del Sur, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) Offices at the telephone number as identified in paragraph 2.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) only.
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informally therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **TIOFILA G. CABATUAN**
DBAC Chairman
Surigao del Sur

(PDI–Feb. 18 & 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project
(National Project Management Office)
5/F Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : February 12, 2007
Loan No. : PH-P200

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, guidance and faculty rooms of the different secondary schools in the Division Office of Guimaras, following the schedules below:

Division Office	Issuance of Bid Documents	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Conference	Date & Time of Bid Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
Guimaras	February 26, to March 12, 2007	March 2, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.	March 22, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.	DepED Division Office of Guimaras, Jordan, Guimaras	(053) 237-1032

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools in the Division of Guimaras, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) Offices at the telephone numbers as identified in paragraph 2.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) only.
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informally therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **MAURA F. PAIT**
DBAC Chairman
Guimaras

(PDI–Feb. 18 & 25, 2007)

Get more exposure for your ad. Advertise in JobMarket Compact

JOB Market COMPACT

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon.

JOB Market

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Sorsogon
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date February 18, 2007
Contract No. SP-113-IN-01 to 06
World Bank Loan No. 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the **Construction and Repair of Health Facilities** (package 01 to 06) Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The **Provincial Government of Sorsogon** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the construction/rehabilitation of the following health facilities;

   Package I
   1. Extension and Repair of OR/DR Complex – Donsol District Hospital
   2. Construction of Birthing Facility – Pilar RHU

   Package II
   1. Repair of Sorsogon Provincial Hospital Main Building
   2. Construction of Laboratory Building – PHO Compound

   Package III
   1. Repair of Bacon RHU and Construction of Birthing Facility – Bacon, District Sorsogon City
   2. Construction of Birthing Facility – Juban RHU
   3. Construction of Birthing Facility – Magallanes District Hospital

   Package IV
   1. Construction of Birthing Facility – Bulan Municipal Hospital
   2. Completion of OPD Bldg. & Const. of Social Hygiene Clinic – Matnog Medicare Hospital
   3. Construction of Birthing Facility – RHU Sta. Magdalena, Sorsogon

   Package V
   1. Rehabilitation of Irosin District Hospital

   Package VI
   1. Construction of Birthing Facility – RHU Barcelona Sorsogon
   2. Construction of Birthing Facility – RHU Bulusan Sorsogon
   3. Construction of Birthing Facility – Gubat Sorsogon
   4. Extension of OR/DR Complex – Prieto Diaz Sorsogon
3. Bidding documents may be purchased between ***February 19-March 20, 2007 at BAC Office PGSO Building Capitol Compound Sorsogon City*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00)*** for each package or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of:

   Package I – One Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Pesos (P 192,000.00)
   Package II – Three Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Pesos (P 389,000.00)
   Package III – Two Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Pesos (P 253,000.00)
   Package IV – Two Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Pesos (P 255,000.00)
   Package V – Two Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Pesos (P 294,000.00)
   Package VI – Three Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Pesos (P 333,000.00)

   In a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the ***BAC Office, PGSO Building, Capitol Compound, Sorsogon City*** on or before March 20, 2007, 10:00 A.M. at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) determined as such during post qualification. The **Estimated Project Cost** for the project is:

   Package I : Seven Million Seven Hundred Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven Pesos and 03/100 (Php 7,712,257.03)
   Package II : Fifteen Million Five Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Two Pesos and 75/100 (Php 15,582,282.75)
   Package III : Ten Million One Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Two Pesos and 30/100 (Php 10,127,252.30)
   Package IV : Ten Million Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Eight Pesos and 64/100 (Php 10,230,958.64)
   Package V : Eleven Million Seven Hundred Seventy One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Five and 99/100 (Php 11,771,595.99)
   Package VI : Thirteen Million Three Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Seven Pesos and 29/100 (Php 13,337,437.29)
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at ***10:00 A.M., March 6, 2007*** at the ***BAC Office, PGSO Building, Capitol Compound, Sorsogon City.***

(Sgd.) TERESITA D. PALADIN
BAC Chairman

(PDI – February 18, 2007)

LEYECO II
Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Real Street Sagkahan District, Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053) 321-1491, 321-2629 Telefax No. (053) 325-7199
Email Ad: leyeco2@skyinet.net

PRE BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO II) invites suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of the following items:

1. 1,200 units of GE Electric Kwhr Meters
2. 500 units Cashpower Prepaid Kwhr Meters, Landys+Gyr
3. 500 units Electric Kwhr Meters, Landys+Gyr
4. 15 units KV2C Meters
5. 3 pcs. Extension 24 ft. Werner Ladder
6. 2,202 pcs of concrete poles, round type of various sizes
7. 1,200 pcs of steel poles of various Sizes
8. 1 unit three-phase electricity meter and instrument transformer testing system
9. Various Line Hardwares and Conductors

A pre-qualification of bidder conference will be held on March 2, 2007 at the LEYECO II Board Room, LEYECO II New Office Building at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon. The following documents have to be presented, to wit:

a) Letter of Intent
b) Original / certified True Copy of Supplier's License / Accreditation
c) Business Permit
d) SEC Registration
e) Certified True Copy of the Latest Financial Statement and Latest Income Tax Return

Bidding documents and detailed technical specifications shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00). Time and venue of the opening of bids shall be discussed during the pre-bid conference. Sealed offers must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid offered.

LEYECO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any formality thereof and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the cooperative. The decision of the cooperative is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. BARTOLOME P. COBACHA**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Feb. 18, 2007)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of:

DESK EDITOR
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

REPORTERS
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate major in Journalism or Mass Communication
- Computer Skills, Communication Skills, Writing Skills, Interviewing Skills, Interpersonal Skills and Research Skills
- Must have at least 1 year experience in news reporting

PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably with background in Computer
- With solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing enviornment
- Advanced knowledge in Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
- Understanding in color management systems
- Fluent in both Windows OS and Macintosh environments

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree holder in Accounting
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in Accounts receivables and/or Credit and collection work
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Can work under pressure and with minimum supervision

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree holder in Computer Science or Computer Engineering with a business background
- 1 to 2 years experience as systems analyst / programmer
- Must have work experience in Powerbuilder, MS SQL 2000, Sybase SQL or other Relational Database Management System. Knowledge in Visual Basic, VB Scripting, Perl Scripting is an advantage
- Can work with minimal supervision

SERVICE ENGINEER
QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduate of Computer Engineering / ECE
- 6 months to one year experience on this job
- Knowledge of computer operations systems like Windows XP and Windows 2000/MAC OS X, desktop applications like MS Office, Open Office, Email Client, Adobe products, Troubleshooting Skills, Interpersonal & Communication Skills.
- Knowledge in networking

HR CLERK
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably major in Psychology or Behavioral Science
- With at least 6 months experience in recruitment or benefits process
- Service-oriented and can work in minimum supervision

Send your application letter and comprehensive resume to

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
China Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: [illegible]

INQUIRER

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **YAKICH-CUIZON CORPORATION** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New Operator of Tourist-Accommodation Facilities (47-Room De Luxe Class Hotel) on a Non-Pioneer status, with project site located at Don Juico Avenue, Malabanias, Angeles City, Pampanga.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--February 18, 2007)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"

Damaged Motor Vehicles

2003 Honda CRV, Wagon / XKX-148
1998 Mits. Canter Ref. Van / WFG-354
2000 Nissan Sentra / WPY-428

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./ Dick Cariño. Tel. # 878-54-57

(PDI - Feb. 18, 2007)

HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

LIKE US ARE EARNING UP TO

P3,000 / DAY!!!

→ WORK FROM HOME
→ GRADUATE OF ANY HEALTH COURSES
→ 19 YR OLD AND UP
→ PART / FULL TIME WORK

TEXT FULLNAME, AGE, EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, LOCATION TO:
09186028492
FOR BRIEFING SCHEDULE

M@GNEGOSYO T@YO

Start w/ 7K AND EARN 50K mo.

By Distributing Basic Goods:
Purefoods, SMC, Magnolia, Coca-Cola, Fundador, Ho-mi, Org Rice, Knorr, etc.

G/F OCTAGON BLDG.
ORTIGAS CENTER
PASIG CITY
(Back of Megamall)
CALL/TXT
0919-8829024 JHOAN

SALES SUPERVISOR

Male/Female, Single 23-28 yrs. old, at least college level, sales oriented, responsible with good leadership skills.

Call: 3734186/87; 3711442

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, STD, HERPES
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
Painless, Bloodless
SKIN DISEASES
ALLERGIES RE-CURRENT
UTI, ALMORANAS,
ERECTION PROBLEMS
INFERTILITY/IMPOTENCE
MOLE/CYST/SCAR REMOVAL
KELOID/PAP SMEAR
COMPLETE LABORATORY
Garma Bldg., No. 8 Purdue St.,
Cubao, Q.C.
OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM MON. to SAT.
TEL. NOS. 4392706
4373898/9139474

PERSONAL

ACCOUNTANT

ACCOUNTANT
1.REGISTRATION OF BOOKS 2.COMPANY FORMATION 3.SETUP BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS 4.BOOKKEEPING 5.FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 6.TAX PREPARATION 453-0294 09175261769

ARCHITECTS

ARCH'T 2D/3D (0927)9194639

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

INTERIOR DESIGN 4172289

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

DirectMaidYayaInt'lCookDriver 7289060

Dcl Maid Yaya int'lcook Driver Boy 7282239

Tstdmaids Yaya Cgiver Mvle cook boy 7281637

YAYA COOK H'MAID DRIVER 8969219

GOOD MAID YAYA DRIVER 438-4809

LIPAT BAHAY

• 900 Lipat Bahay •
Open/Close VAN 4/6 W
740-5628 • 731-8549
0920-9507360

LEMSON TRUCKING
8372272•5477942 L300
CLOSE VAN• OPEN TRUCKING

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

•Proj6 #58Road3 Coml/Resdl• 9219967/0255; 09178865431

PROPERTIES FOR SALE Private Pool @Laguna, Tanza, Cavite: Condo CALL 5278008/5280001 0918.9081630

HOUSE & LOT

2 STOREY HSE LOT 200SQM 4BR 2TB GRGE SERV'S QTR PATIO T9222660 MF 8AM-5PM

2M QC Batasan FA86m² 3BR 2TB prkng • 0917-8160250

All must GO Hse/Furn/Car parking 09189267944 Pque

Antipolo Vermont Royal 150m² @ 6K/m² 9422154

BETTER LVNG PQUE
RUSH! 0917-8572626

Bnew 4br jacuzi 2.8M 9487112

BROADWAY COR 17TH STRET BACK OF SPORTS CTR, ST. JO, ST. LUKES 386SQM DIRECT BUYERS ONLY 09176090335

CARMONA 3-4BR 2.3M up NICE VIEW COOL CLIMATE NR ALABANG, 25mins AIRPORT VISIT: www.pinoycondos.com call:09228067388 VILMA

Proj4 QC big hse gd for 3fam. call 4229434 Sat/Sun only

Hse 200sqm & Lot 143sqm 4sale Concorde Vil, Pque P4.5M 8536318 09179511677

•KAMUNING #96K-1 St Bnew• 9219967/0255; 09178865431

L150 FA162 Clean Title 3BDM 2TB 2.5M 09206451579

MAYWOOD 2STY 272SQM 8267026 09165671194

Mkna 1.95M-2.7M 4BR 3TB bnew RFO loan ok nr J'bee Atendido Realty 9422154

P1.1M LAS PINAS 8054686

IMMIGRATION AUSTRALIA

ELPIDIO JNR. BAUTISTA
Registered Migration Agent-MARN: 0002606

Free Consultation:
Contact Details:

Australia
ELPIDIO BAUTISTA, JR.
(Immigration Consultant)
26 Spitz Ave. Newington NSW
2127 Australia
Telefax (612)-9737 9506
Mobile: 0401 465494
Email: ejbautista@tpg.com.au

Philippines
LAW OFFICE OF:
Elpidio R. Bautista, Jr.
Filinvest-1, Batasan Hills
Quezon City, M.M. 1126
PHILIPPINES
Tel/Fax (632) 9314046
(632) 9510180

HOUSE & LOT

PASIG H&L Bank/Inhse Malou 44896687/09173580683

Rush Sale Promo!!!
2BR PHAUS (127sqm) - 4.9M
2BR (75sqm) - 2.5M
1BR (40sqm) - 1.5M
Studio (25sqm) - 1M
ASIAWEALTH TOWER
Near La Salle / St. Scholastica
Call (02) 522-59-50
0917-8307643

CONDO/TWNHSE

2BR Condo 199T DP Move In
RFO Near Market Market
0917-4003333

3 VICTORIAN T/house Unit in Britanny Bay La Posadas at below DEVELOPER'S PRICE UNIT L/A F/A P NOW D21 88m² 171m² 7.5M 6.034M D3 96m² 171m² 8.363 6.57M D01 88m² 171m² 8.158 6.527M PORTOFINO LOT 522m² P6.8M now P5.9M-Cel#0918-9009785

3BR, 2TB, 24hrs security, carport, FERROS TOWER, Makati Ave cor Jupiter St., P3.5M •0927-3235597•

LE MIRAGE
FEW UNITS LEFT!!!
As low as 30% D.P.
15yrs. Bank fin.
(P18,415.95/mo)
Ready for Occupancy
Call (02)-5225950 / 5228703
0917-8307643

Bnw 2sty3br3tb 2cg 4.9Mneg 159 Sct Limbaga Ext 4388754

COLUMNS AYALA 09209126709

CUBAO P1.5M 10%DP 7yrs to pay 0% Interest 09178667949

DMCI Condo 1.5M 485m² Prime Loc. • 0915-5317355

F. MANALO 4BR 5TB 2CG NICE WELL-MAINTAINED RUSH SALE!! 09178973717•09228067388

GARDEN ISLAND TOWER QUEZON CITY RUSH! 14 N.Domingo 09178572626

KINGSWOOD 77SQM W/PRKNG 09209204553 8999497

ORIENTAL GRDN MKTI
STUDIO, 1BR 25YRS TO PAY TEL 09209286538 / 7471301

Penthouse 180 Sqm 2 Parking 14.8M Roxas Blvd 09175021688

QC Sikatuna Thses 4br w/ grg nr Ateneo UP Ace Supermart Call 9215328 : 09166496838

Resort Type Condo Sale/Rent To Own • 0915-2952026

SHANG ST. FRANCIS
ROCKWELL /COLUMNS 09175346268

Unit 1619, 40 sq m Burgundy Transpacific Taft Avenue, Manila(fronting DLSU) Joey - 09189451742

WORLD CLASS CONDO!! NO DOWNPAYMENT 09178867691

B'NEW CONDO 10% DP MOVE-IN 48-108 SQM
1.4 M UP CEL 09204030546

LOT

1200sqm-NR DLSU T8992148

188/200m² Gloria IV Subd TSora or al Ledesma Crt Visayas Ave QC 433-1021

60HEC 4SALE/JV CABUYAO LAGUNA 09215329047 EMILY

663SQM COMML LOT QUEZON ST CAMILING T9222660 M/F 8AM-5PM

84SQM W/Clean TCT Brgy Calumpang Bingonan RZ 180K-250K 8435555

Bolasi Pangasinan 3,139m² & 6,439m² Resdl Comml Call 455-5474 Juanita

FOR QUICK SALE
(WITH PASIG RIVER ACCESS)
1,756 SQ M VACANT LOT
LOCATED AT OLD PANADEROS ST., STA. ANA MANILA
PHP16.5M GROSS
CONTACT: IDA 09177942970 OR ELMA 09175267730

MANDA LOT 538SQM 5.5M NANCY 706-0670 0917-3919806

PINSAO LOT 3TSQM 1T/SQM 09213374046 FLAT AREA

LOT

•TAGAYTAY COLDEST SPOT• 240m² 4000/m² nr Taal Vista 194T D/P 7200/mo T647-2407

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Farm Lot-Baras Marcos
Hway 5years No Interest
Lou 916-4369 / 448-9667
or 0916-3588683
Loida 6453130/09193851080
Boni 0918-2573186
Remi 0927-3555618

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

4.5BR Hse 2TB 1mdsrm w/TB 2carpark Loyola Hts nr Miriam Ateneo T-9296765 0917-5296627 Gina

CONDO/TWNHSE

1BR 22K EASTWOOD OLYMPIC HEIGHTS AVAILABLE APRIL 15 813-8420 813-3568

California Garden 58m² 2BR 2TB 14T/mo • 0920-9618079

Condo 3br F Furn EGI LA PAZ Makati 0920-8644018

Ortigas Center 2BR 3TB MR PArk Furn Pool P40T 929-9835

PASAY MRT 23BR 2318973

APARTMENT

1&2BR NR P.GIL 5634007/5891978

2BR APT w/ 2T&B #16 Silver St., Gloria I nr Visayas Ave T. Sora QC P11k T-9296765 0917-5296627 Gina

2BR SPACIOUS A.Luna SnJuan 10TH/MO CallSAVELL 6761603

350 DALISAY ST. #0917-9582179

NR LA SALLE UNI T 8992148

Proj 8 4BR 2TB P15T 09179588923

2-3BR APT with Parking 27 Matahimik St Brgy Malaya Diliman Q.C. 09173812657; 433116

FOR LEASE

Looking 4 Studio Type For Business just Text or Call 0910-5629498

FOR LEASE
1.OFFICE SPACES
Legaspi/Salcedo Vill., Makati
2.STORE SPACES/ WAREHOUSES
Dasmariñas, Cavite
Alabang-Zapote Rd
Las Piñas
3.CHEMICAL TANKS
Bauan, Batangas
ALL RENTAL – NEGOTIABLE
Call Tel No. 892-2681 to 96
ARIEL / DING / REXIE

BEDSPACE

BEDSPACE P1500 UNIDA ST BACLARAN 8519932

Lady Bedspaces 8435555

MALE BEDSPACE IN A CONDO ORTIGAS CNTR 0920-9232484

BUSINESS RENTAL

Commercial Space
198Tandang Sora Ave., QC
EMMIE 456-4265/456-5123

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1%R. Estate Loan, Sal. Seaman ED 746-0186 • 0919-3317582

Business•Doctors•OFW•Car •Real Estate• 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

OFC SPACE 430 SQ. MAKATI 3 PARKING 8133568/8138420

OFC SPACE 461 SQ MAKATI 4 PARKING 8138420/8133568

OFFICES SPACES FOR RENT INTRAMUROS, MLA CALL 5278008/5280001 0918.9081630

FOR SALE

RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUM UNITS
"Doña Felisa I Condominium"
Robinson Circle Road
Henry P. Javier Street, Pasig City
Tel. Nos.: 845-2202
813-3829

WANTED TO RENT
HOTEL & MOTEL BUILDINGS
w/in METRO MANILA
Call Alan
0918-904-4495
FAX 032-344-2717

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

"PRIME PROPERTIES"
Residential/Commercial
For SALE or RENT
•MKT/Fort/Rockwell/QC •Greenmeadows H&L LA875, 4br, garden @27m •Greenhills Eisenhower Sale or JV. Ok 4 Condo •Boni Ave Comml 785sqm Sale or JV, Near Edsa •Quezon Ave showroom Prime Corner Lot P50m •Malarayat Fairway Lot 1700LA bargain@2.5t/sqm •Verdana Homes (Bacoor) 326m cor./morning sun 479m adjoining lots *PRIME CONDO SALE/RENT •ShangGrandTower Big 2br 152.4 2pkg P14.5M RUSH •Salcedo Park Condo 3br 36/f furnished P11m 4br furn. nice view P13m 4br-never been used P12m •1 Legaspi Park (Ayala) 2 Studio units w/prkg combine or separately 1br-Furn. Good Price 2br parkview Sale/Rent •PPT Fort-Good Units For Sale or Rent SF/FF •PaseoParkView-Good deal Std. & 1Br-Rent/Sale 3br semi-furn rent 70T •Easton Place-Resale 2&3br Good price •LpL Manor-Salcedo Nice 1br 56m² FF P3.3m *LET IS KNOW YOUR NEED *We also help owners sell/rent Visit website www propertyprovidergroup.com ALDRIN 0918.939.2979 750.4842/7517000 loc.1401

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

3BR CONDO UNIT SANTOLAN PASIG RENT-2-OWN 12TH /MO INCLUSIVE OF MONTHLY DUES CALL/TXT 09163457240 LIBAY

EAST ORTIGAS MANSIONS 2BR complete amenities 09062654917

MKT. CONDOS 09209126709

REALTORS/SEMINAR

Free Real Estate Seminar www.manilabaygarden.com 09178160250 • 09215634774

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

'03 HiAce Gas A1 532-3936

04 Revo SR 535K 09158332223

02 Exped 790T 0920-9623492

98 Vanet SXG 1st Owned 50th kms P210T A-1 Condition T 632-7759 • 0921-5444190

CARS

'05 Sentra GSX 09167921505

07 URVAN ESCAPADE
10Hours P1,800
with Driver
7878776 7964377
09213497170

2001 VOLVO S80 79T KMS. P575TH. 0917-8835148

97 CAMRY 2.2liters white 1st own makinis 380Thou nego. 9123651 ; 0917-5330777 Vic

CANADIAN EMBASSY
Van for Sale by Closed Bids Taxes Payable
TOYOTA GRANDIA 2001
Call Sheila 8579086
sheila.mari@international.gc.ca
DEADLINE 19 MARCH 4pm

FORD RANGER '03 DSL XT 410T NEG. GLO 8959503

TOL MEGA RENT A CAR TEL 8963775 09204084857

VAN/PICK-UP

L200 97 DSL DBL CAB P230 CALL 0906-4727712

07 URVAN
ESCAPADE
10 HOURS P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776
7964377
09213497170

OTHER CAR BRANDS

BERYLLE CARS
Araneta Ctr Cubao nr All Mall finance Trde-in slot rental P3K Consign 439-1117; 0917-8342020 Pajero Trooper Hi-Town Ace Lancer Chariot Corola Estima Prado Surf Fargo RVR MU Suzuki Terano Trucks etc

BOATS

Boat for Sale
For Interested just Tex or Call No. 0910-5629498

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

VANS 9226702 9214535

CARS FOR RENT

•Carlines Rent a Car•
Vans, Coaster, Bus, Xpdtn
F-150 4Whl Benz U-Drive Car
813-1975 • 8131976

★Cheap Van 9330311★

CAR LOAN

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

B'LIARD TBLE 38T-UP 8014494

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

TRANSFORMER SUBSTATION 1992 FRANCE TRANSFORMER 2500 KVA PRIMARY 34.5 KV 41.8A SECONDARY 480V 30,007A T3644158 MS OLIVE

PETS

PHILIPPINE DOG SCHOOL Trains w/Full Guarantee T721-3736 • 0916-7297392

ROTWEILER M/F SIRE USA ChampGrandsire 10T 3MOS PCCI8330056 09175042316

PCCI
372nd & 373rd PCCI
ALL-BREEDS DOG SHOW
The Block SM City
North Edsa, Q.C.
February 17 & 18, 2007
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
WALTER SHICKER (Germany)
MAREE MCKENZIE (Australia)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SPONSORS
FCI GROUPINGS
SPONSORS
PRO PLAN DOG FOOD
PEDIGREE DOG FOOD

5-STOREY BLDG.
510 sq.m.
Commercial
w/ office, warehouse;
Residential w/ maid's quarter, guard house;
Penthouse w/ garden, den, amusement;
Condo Style for renovation w/ big garage
Ready for occupancy
(QC) Mr. Rio 9288014
www.buyandsellplus.com.ph
ID No. 97808

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX
SWISS WATCHES BEST PRICE
7269687•0917-8884040

'PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE'
Secondo Glorietta
Agencia de Makati
Pawnshop
WE BUY USED
SWISS WATCHES
GOLD & JEWELLERY SPECIALISTS
894-0282 • 889-7956

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
804-0484 • 844-2995

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
GoldCrest Bldg., Glorietta - 2
5645593 5697041 0917-8473744

WE BUY
JEWELRY, DIAMONDS
ROLEX, PAWNTICKETS
& Other Swiss Watches Fast Cash
09277078888

MISCELLANEOUS

MARVEL DC COMICS LIQUOR WINE LPRECORDS VHS TAPE 8522528 09173281715

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER COURSE
528-0722 Study Now Pay Later
0917-7924104, 0922-8148322

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
#7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig City; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on **Feb. 24, 2007 at 9:00 AM.** Including all items pawned up to September 2006 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer
(PDI-Feb. 18, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of late FELICITAS G. BORJA was extrajudicially settled by the heirs with waiver of shares as per Doc 0054; Page 41; Book CXVIII; Series 2007 before Notary Public Atty. Elsa Verdadero Perlas of Pasig City (PDI - Feb. 4, 11 & 18, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of FRANCISCA C. MEDALLA who died inestate on October 27, 2006 consisting of a savings account with Land Bank of the Philippines have been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Extrajudicial Settlement date Feb. 1, 2007 denominated as Doc. No. 17761; Page No. 334; Book No. 05; Series of 2007 in the notarial registry of notary public Daniel T. Alviar. (Feb. 4,11&18, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Spouses Isidro and Rosario Orendain was extrajudicially settled with absolute sale among their heirs as per Doc. no. 461;Page no. 93; Book no. X;Series of 2007 under Notary Public Atty. Ambrocio E. Pagtalunan of Manila
(PDI Feb. 11,18 & 25'07)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE HEIRS OF THE LATE RODOLFO QUINTOS PARTITIONED HIS ESTATE IN AN EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEASED RODOLFO QUINTOS EXECUTED ON DECEMBER 28, 2006 AND ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC FOR AND IN THE CITY OF MANILA, ROBERTO B. ARCA RECORDED IN HIS NOTARIAL REGISTER AS DOC. No. 11; PAGE 3; BOOK II; SERIES of 2006 OF HIS NOTARIAL REGISTER
PDI-Feb. 4,11 & 18, 2007

ASIATRUST Bank

INVITATION TO BID

PROPERTY FOR BID. INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY CONSISTING OF 10 ADJACENT PARCELS OF LAND WITH A TOTAL LOT AREA OF 25,550 SQ.M. WITH TWO LOFTY WAREHOUSES CONTAINING A TOTAL APPROXIMATE FLOOR AREA OF 16,550 SQ.M. LOCATED ALONG SANDOVAL AVENUE, PINAGBUHATAN, PASIG CITY

MINIMUM BID PRICE: P116 MILLION

TERMS OF THE SALE:

1. ALL EXPENSES FOR THE TRANSFER OF TITLE TO THE WINNING BIDDER/BUYER SHALL BE FOR THE WINNING BIDDER'S ACCOUNT INCLUDING CAPITAL GAINS TAX AND DOC. STAMPS.
2. THERE BEING A LIS PENDENS ANNOTATED AT THE BACK OF THE TITLES, BY BIDDING ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTIES, THE WINNING BIDDER/BUYER UNDERTAKES TO ASSUME ANY AND ALL EXPENSES RELATED TO THE PURSUIT, SETTLEMENT AND FINAL CANCELLATION OF THE SAID LIS PENDENS.
3. BID MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A REFUNDABLE BIDDER'S BOND IN THE FORM OF CASH OR CASHIER'S/MANAGERS CHECK ISSUED BY ANY COMMERCIAL BANK PAYABLE TO ASIATRUST BANK IN THE AMOUNT EQUAL TO 10% OF THE BID PRICE.
4. SALE SHALL BE ON "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS.

PLEASE SUBMIT SEALED BIDS ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 12, 2007 ADDRESSED TO:

MR. MEL FERRER, ABBY GARCIA OR **MR. JOSEPH C. CHUA**
ACQUIRED ASSETS GROUP, 2ND FLOOR, ASIATRUST BANK BUILDING, 1424 QUEZON AVENUE, QUEZON CITY.

FOR ANY INQUIRIES PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL US AT TEL. NOS. 924-5730, 924-5772 OR 0917-4730557

(PDI - Feb. 18, 2007)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Tokens for the Year 2007 NFA Service Awardees

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2007 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P1,200,034.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of wristwatches for 2007 service awardees, as follows:*

LOT No.	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	177 pieces wristwatches, Model A	118,140.00
2	769 pieces wristwatches, Model B	625,966.00
3	314 pieces wristwatches, Model C	455,928.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of wristwatches for 2007 NFA service awardees.* Delivery is required within 45 days from receipt of Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *March 7, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on March 20, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *March 20, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity : *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person : *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address : *101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone/Fax No. : *(632) 455-2758*
Mobile No. : *(0928) 410-2732*
e-mail address : *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website : *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI–Feb. 18 & 25, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF CRISPIN L. ALCORN SR HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTELED BY HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC # 57 PAGE # 11 BOOK # 3 SERIES OF 2007 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. BELLA FLOR GEROMO OF PARANAQUE
PDI-FEB. 4, 11 & 18, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GENE CRUZ was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc No. 55; Page No. 11; book No. 107 Series of 2007 before Notary Public Jose L. Sta Ana of Marikina City (PDI - Feb. 4, 11 & 18, 2007)

Noticed is hereby given that the Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate and Partition of the Estate of LUZ N. PREPUSE has been settled among her heirs as Doc. No. 313, Page No. 063,Book No. CXI,Series of 2006,before Notary Public Atty. Dante O. Cacho of Pasig City on November 7, 2006.(PDI-Feb. 11,18&25,2007)

PERSONAL

Dear Holy Spirit Thank You from Gemma P. Santos

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN XTRA INCOME 295-0342

PART/FULLTIME 09275357839

RTW closing sale kids adults P20 up to P50 09178830002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ACCOUNTING CLERK SINGLE BELOW 29 7413214 7312373

CAREGIVER • 528-0747

DEP ED MAKATI
VACANT POSITION
ITEM NO.
OSEC-DECSB-TCHI-42193

DEPED Pasig City & Sn Juan Sta. Lucia H.S, Cashier I DSEC-DECSB-30001,1999 BSC Acctg., w/ CS Elig., with or without experience

Experienced Tutors GS/HS
Willing to Work In Laspiñas
Email us at
knowledge_farm@yahoo.com

FASHION DESIGNER
Male with or without exp.
Apply Mon - Thur, 2-6pm
Call 721-5611 ; 722-6739 QC

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
MANILA TEACHERS
Is in need of
ACCOUNTING PERSONNEL
Accounting graduate Male or Female. Below 30y/o w /pleasing personality Good PR Honest, hardworking, result oriented
Send resume at WorkActsys Corp 918 U.N. AVE MLA
TEL 5361528
EMAIL AT:
lm_arellano26@yahoo.com

OFC STAFF 09282075798-RON

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FREELANCE BROKER
METROPOLITAN HOMES BESIDE ROBINSON & SM MALL DASMA C.V.T. H&L TOWNHOUSE T5517809 CHUA, 09106967187 BERT

Immediate Hiring Credit Investigator/Sales/Mktg. Asst/Office Staff 8970614

LLB GRAD LEGAL ASSISTANT 12T ROXAS BLVD OFFICE 4726949

SALES EXECUTIVE(50)
Selling experience preferred
SALES MANAGER(10)
People-handling skills required
DIRECTOR of SALES(1)
W/ background in Sales Activity Planning Apply at Baygarden Sales Ofc. Metropolitan Park Edsa Extn. Pasay City beside Toyota Mla Bay •5510916• for Seat reservation of the seminar on Feb. 22 & 23.

TEACHERS NEEDED
PS-Child Devt / Psychology
GS - BEED
HS- Math, Science,
English, Mape major
Excellent comm skills
LET passers preferred but new grads welcome
Contact 6452125 / 6452136

VETERINARIAN 09196366345

For your Classified and Obituary Ads please call:
INQUIRER SM MEGAMALL BRANCH
637-2008

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION
5/F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 929 6626 loc. 2194; 2239
Telefax Nos. +632 929 6626 loc. 2193

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Supply and Installation of Aids to Navigation for the Pasig River Safety and Security Program

The PRRC, through the General Appropriations Act of 2007 intends to apply the sum of **Twenty Two Million One Hundred Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred Nineteen and 00/100 Pesos (P22,120,719.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Supply and Installation of Aids to Navigation for the Pasig River Safety and Security Program (PRFS-ATN-01).** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PRRC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Supply and Installation of Aids to Navigation for the Pasig River Safety and Security Program (PRFS-ATN-01).** Delivery of GOODS is required starting **April 11, 2007**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.**

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
5/F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from **February 24 to March 2, 2007, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.** at the address below upon submission of Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS (Php 15,000.00).** The method of payment shall be made only upon a certification by the Head of the Procuring Entity to the effect that the Goods have been rendered or delivered in accordance with the terms of the Contract and have been duly inspected and accepted. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PRRC-IABAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **March 5, 2007, 10:00 A.M.** at the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, PRRC Conference Room, 5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **March 19, 2007, 10:00 A.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount stated in the Bid Data Sheet or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **March 19, 2007, 10:30 A.M.** at the **PRRC Conference Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
5/F DENR Main Building, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. +632 926 6449
Telefax No. +632 926 5233; 926 6449

(Sgd.) **Atty. ZOILO L. ANDIN, JR.**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Feb. 18 & 24, 2007)

Travels with My Dog

TRAVELS WITH MY DOG, A UNIQUELY appealing yet highly informative book about road travel through the continent of Europe will be launched on Wednesday, Feb 21, 8pm at Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City. Written by a Filipina book author, Helen Samson-Lauterwald, who has lived in Germany since 1978, Travels with My Dog chronnicles her experiences while traveling with her husband and the family Dachshund named Alfie. Generally pet-friendly, Europe allows families who travel with their pets. There are accommodations for such four-legged creatures and if certain countries do not allow their entry, there are pet hotels and kennel inns for them to stay in while their human family travels without them for awhile. The author provides vital information about the peculiarities of the regions and countries, together with their attitude towards animals and their entry requirements for pets. Travels with My Dog will be for sale during the launch at Eastwood (with book signing) then at major bookstores nationwide.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that after investigation and due process, **MYADELLE ANTOINETTE C. ONG,** formerly **Sales Consultant** of **Facial Care Centre** (the Company) Tomas Morato Branch, has been found to have seriously violated company rules and regulations and as a consequence, she was **terminated** from employment with the Company effective **January 19, 2007.**

Let it also be known that Ms. Ong has never been appointed and involved in any Management Capacity with the Company.

Any transaction(s) entered into by Ms. Ong for and in behalf of the Company in whatever degree, nature, capacity or representation is illegal and shall be considered null and void.

(PDI – February 18, 2007)

Second international rondalla fest

IN A RECENT PRESS conference, Dr. Ramon P. Santos, Festival Director of the 2nd International Rondalla Festival, announced that concerts, outreach performances, conference-workshops, an exhibit and an international Rondalla congress will be the main events of the week-long festival named Cuerdas sa Panaghiusa (Strings of Unity).

The festival which will take place in Dumaguete City from Feb. 19-25, will feature main performances at the Oriental Negros Convention Center.

An exhibit on a shared cultural heritage of plucked string music entitled Cuerdas: Rhythms of Community Life will open on February 20 at 4pm and will run until March 31 at the Silliman Hall of the Silliman University. Cuerdas sa Panaghiusa is presented by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts through the Musicological Society of the Philippines, in partnership with the Province of Oriental Negros, and in cooperation with the UP College of Music. For more information on the festival schedule, please call up 9260028, email rondalla2007@yahoo.com or visit www.rondallafestival.com.

OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

We, the loving children **Lilly, Jesi, Carmen, Bing** and **Beth** of

ROSARIO AYO MENDEZ

who joined our Creator on January 24, 2007

would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to relatives, friends and employees who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, spent precious time with us and who, in countless ways, condoled and comforted us in our time of sorrow.

So dearly loved...
So fondly remembered
So truly missed

In loving memory of

MA. REBECCA E. BABILONIA

who passed away on February 16, 2007
at the age of 41.

Her parents:
David & Belen Babilonia

Her siblings & in-laws:
Achel & Jun Manguerra, Bob & Glo Babilonia
and Raisa & Jun-Jun Macalintal

Her nephews & nieces:
Clyde, Cylah & Junboy Manguerra,
Danielle & David Babilonia
and Julia Macalintal

Request the pious readers for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains lie in state at Chapel 6 of the Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Necrological Mass is on February 19, 2007 at 2 p.m.

Mortuary and Crematory at THE HERITAGE PARK

Our dearly beloved

ATTY. POMPEYO L. BAUTISTA SR.

passed away in the grace of our Lord
on February 14, 2007

His loving wife LITA; children JUN and EVA, ARIEL and ANGIE, EDER and AENELLE, grandchildren, brother and sisters, relatives and friends request prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the mortuary of St. Peter Parish, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on February 20, 2007 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

---

we design
OBITUARIES
for free

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Atty. Eduardo Delfin Azarraga

MLQ College of Law 1958

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 7, 2007, Pontevedra, Capiz

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Message of Thanks

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to all our friends and relatives who sent mass cards, flowers, letters of sympathy and spent precious time with us and expressed in many other ways their love, concern and support during our time of sorrow.

from the family of the late

EDUARDO O. CARRASCOSO

Death Notice

ROMULO R. REBANCOS

"Mholly"

September 10, 1948 - February 15, 2007

Peacefully joined his Creator
on February 15, 2007 at the age of 58.

His body lies in state at
Loyola Memorial Chapel, Marikina City.

Cremation will be today,
February 18, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
at Loyola Crematorium, Marikina City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." - John 3:16

JOB Market
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2007
Philippine Copyright 1995
For jobseekers, log on to: www. jobmarketonline.com
JOB*Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (R-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon
Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Find A Career In Here
1

ETON PROPERTIES PHILIPPINES, INC.

ETON

Building with Pride

- We are a member of the **LUCIO TAN** Group of Companies
- We are a start-up company and aims to be among the leading real estate developers in the Philippines.
- We have a very extensive landbank located in Makati Central Business District (CBD), Ortigas CBD, Manila/Pasay/Parañaque Bay Area, Quezon City, Pasig, Mactan Beach, Cabuyao, Calatagan and other strategic locations in the Philippines.
- We will develop residential condominiums, residential housing, office buildings, condotel, commercial centers and leisure/retirement projects.
- We are inviting professionals experienced in the real estate industry in all levels of the organization to join.
- Applicants must be top performers in their organization, with excellent scholastic record, a team player, results-oriented and with high ethical values.

An INVITATION to the BEST Real Estate PROFESSIONALS

SALES DIRECTORS (Code: SD)

- Must have at least fifteen (15) years sales management experience with minimum of five (5) years experience as Sales Director in large real estate company
- Must have an excellent network of agents and clients
- Must be a college degree holder
- Must be highly motivated and possess the drive of excellence
- Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Must possess strong sense of integrity and entrepreneurial skills

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING MANAGERS (Code: Realty-IM)

- Must have an existing U.S. and/or Europe visa or with extensive travel experience
- College graduate from reputable college or university
- With at least five (5) years sales management experience
- Preferably with experience in selling residential condominiums
- With excellent communication, presentation and negotiation skills
- Must be aggressive, results-driven, self directed and a team player

NETWORK MARKETING MANAGER (Code: Realty-Network)

- At least ten (10) years sales management experience managing real estate broker companies/network
- Preferably with experience in selling residential condominium
- Highly motivated and possess leadership skills
- Must have extensive network of real estate brokers

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER (Code: Realty -COMM)

We are looking for a Brand & Communications Champion who will create excitement and lasting image across our business. Recommend and execute sound strategies and participate in the preparation of the company's new product lines. Identify new market opportunities, conceptualize and develop brand and communications/PR programs.

- At least 8-10 years solid experience in marketing/brand management or advertising coming from leading Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), Real Estate, Insurance or Food Service companies.
- Creativity and an ability to bring new concepts, ideas and products in the market
- With high scholastic records. Preferably with MBA or masteral units.
- Excellent oral, written and cross cultural communication skills
- Must be a team player, hard worker and results driven.
- Ability to work with deadline and end-dates in a marketing environment

MARKETING SERVICES MANAGER (Code: Realty-Services)

The Marketing Services Manager will work closely with Brand & Communications Manager, Sales Groups and Business Development Group in the execution of the company's marketing and sales programs.

- With 8-10 solid years experience in marketing services preferably coming from leading Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), Real Estate, Insurance or Food Service companies.
- The candidate should be able to thrive in a fast-paced environment and approach projects with strong business sense, have flexible and adaptable mindset.
- The person should have a meticulous attention to detail as well as strong organizational/supervisory skills and the ability to handle multiple projects with competing deadlines.
- With high scholastic records. Preferably with MBA or masteral units.
- With good track record in planning, executing and evaluation of sales promotions, events, exhibits and corporate tie-up programs.
- Excellent oral, written and cross cultural communication skills.
- The person must be a team player, hard worker and results driven

MARKETING OFFICERS (Code: Realty-Mktg)

- Responsible for the preparation of marketing plans, market analysis and strategic formulation and events management
- With at least ten (10) years marketing experience
- Preferably with MBA units
- Creative, hardworking, and resourceful
- Graduate of Marketing/Business/Communications/Advertising

MARKETING ASSISTANTS (Code: Realty - MA)

- Graduate of business management course, major in Marketing
- Must belong to the top 10% of graduating class
- Must be results driven and a team player
- Highly organized and systematic
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

VP - OPERATIONS (Code: Realty-Opns)

Responsible for sales documentation and control, customer service, customer financing, customer remittance, IT, etc.

- With at least ten (10) years operations experience, preferably in the banking or real estate industry
- Graduate of any business course from reputable schools; preferably with MBA units
- Excellent people management skills
- Can work under pressure, mature, dynamic and hardworking

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (Code: Realty-BDM)

- Must have at least ten (10) years experience in business development in a reputable realty company
- Preferably graduate of Management Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Economics from reputable schools
- Preferably with MBA units
- Mature, dynamic, hardworking, resourceful and result-oriented
- Can work under extreme pressure

PROJECT MANAGER (Code: Realty -PM)

- With at least five (5) years project management and/or construction experience
- Licensed Civil Engineer
- Can work under extreme pressure and willing to work extended hours
- With excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills

TRAINING MANAGER (Code: Realty-Trng)

- Graduate of Behavioral Science or Psychology or any related course
- With at least five (5) years experience in training, preferably in the field of real estate sales
- With excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills
- Can work under pressure, mature, dynamic and hardworking

CREDIT AND COLLECTION MANAGER (Code: Realty-C&C)

- With at least ten (10) years related experience preferably in a real state company or other financial institutions
- Accounting graduate; preferably with MBA units
- Highly analytical
- With excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills
- Team player

SALES DOCUMENTATION & CONTROL MANAGER (Code : Realty-SDCD)

- With at least five (5) years related experience in a real estate company
- Graduate of any business course from reputable college or university
- Must be analytical and systematic
- Must be result oriented, assertive and able to work under extreme pressure .

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER (Code : Realty-PR)

Will be responsible for securing government permits, licenses, etc.

- Must have good contacts with government agencies, LGUs, HLURB, DENR, DAR, etc.
- College graduate from reputable schools
- Preferably with at least five (5) years experience in a real estate company
- Must possess strong sense of integrity, results-driven and team player
- Must be assertive and able to work under extreme pressure

CREATIVE ARTS MANAGER (Code: Realty-Creative)

- With at least ten (10) years related experience preferably in the real estate
- Graduate of Marketing/Business/Communications/Advertising
- Preferably with MBA units
- With excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Must be a team player, highly creative, hardworking and results oriented

CREATIVE ARTIST (Code: Realty-Creative)

- With at least two (2) years experience
- Graduate of Advertising or Marketing
- Must be highly creative
- Must be results driven and a team player

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS (Code: Realty - Acctg)

- Graduate of business management course, major in Accounting
- Must belong to the top 10% of graduating class
- Must be results driven and a team player
- Highly organized and systematic
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Candidates for March 2007 graduation are welcome to apply

BANK OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE (Code: Realty-BOE)

- Currently holding an AVP or managerial position in a reputable commercial bank
- Must have at least ten (10) years banking operations experience
- Preferably must also have experience in Mortgage Financing, CTS financing and Overseas remittance
- Must be a team player, hardworking and result-oriented
- With high scholastic records, preferably with MBA units

EXECUTIVE TRAINEES (Code: Realty-ET)

To be trained to become future managers

- MBA graduate: preferably from AIM or overseas graduate school
- With at least four (4) years working experience
- Can work under pressure, mature, dynamic and hardworking
- Highly organized and analytical

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES (Code: Realty-MT)

To be trained for supervisory or management positions

- Highly analytical
- Proven leadership track record in school
- Belongs to top 10% of graduating class
- College graduate of any business course from reputable school

IT MANAGER (Code: Realty-IT)

- With at least ten (10) years of IT experience preferably in real estate and at least five (5) years of IT project management experience
- Bachelors/Degree in Computer Science/Computer Engineering or other relevant business courses
- Must have strong problem solving, analytical and communication skills
- Able to translate functional business requirements Into technical requirements
- Is well organized, can handle multiple projects, works well in teams, and able to work under pressure
- Knowledgeable in business process

IT OFFICER (Code: Realty- IT)

- Graduate of Computer Science/Information Technology course
- With at least one (1) year experience in Web Development, (HTML, PHP, Java Script)
- Preferably with exposure in standard software development and project management methodologist
- Results oriented, resourceful, highly organized and hardworking

BUSINESS ANALYST (Code: Realty-BA)

- College graduate from reputable schools, preferably Economics major
- Must belong to top 10% of graduating class
- Highly analytical
- With excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills
- Can work under pressure, mature, dynamic and hardworking
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

ADMIN. ASSISTANTS (Code: Realty - AA)

- Graduate of any business management course
- Must belong to top 10% of the graduating class
- Must be results driven and a team player
- Highly organized and systematic
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Candidates for March 2007 graduation are welcome to apply

HR ASSISTANT (Code: Realty - HR)

- Graduate of Human Resources, Psychology, Behavioral Science from reputable schools
- Must possess strong personality and leadership
- Must be familiar with recruitment and testing
- Must have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Candidates for March 2007 graduation are welcome to apply

Competitive package and tremendous opportunities for career growth and development awaits successful candidates.
Qualified applicants are invited to send their resumé, transcript of records and 2 x 2 picture to:
ALLIED BANK – HRMD, 12/F Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Ave., Cor. Legaspi St., Makati City or e-mail at
Etonrecruitment@yahoo.com

M2Mi³
Machine2Machine
InteractiveIntelligenceInc.

We are a very dynamic company engaged in exciting and diversified industry and breaking new grounds in machine-to-machine technology industry. Our vision is clear: to be recognized as the leading M2M applications enabler in Asia Pacific.

We are currently looking for top-notch individuals to fill up the following positions:

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVES
- Male or female, between 24 to 40 years old
- Graduate of ECE or IT related course, an advantage
- Must have proven track record in sales and business development
- Must have experience in Telecoms or IT environment
- Excellent skills in interpersonal communications, influencing and relationship building
- Project management skills preferred
- Assertive and can work under pressure

CHANNELS & PARTNERS EXECUTIVE
- Male or female, between 23 to 35 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Graduate of an IT related course an advantage
- Must have at least one (1) year experience in Channels/ Partners Management
- Technically adept in the latest technology and can work under pressure
- Self starter and self motivated

SOLUTIONS SPECIALISTS
- Male or female, between 24 to 35 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Graduate of an IT related course an advantage
- Must have at least two (2) years experience in IT Hardware/Software, Telecoms or Automation Solutions Sales
- Technically adept, in the latest technology and can work under pressure
- Must be aggressive, resourceful and results oriented

MARKETING ASSOCIATES
- Female, between 22 to 28 years old
- Experience in Marketing Event Management an advantage
- Proficiency in MS PowerPoint a must
- Knowledge in other productivity software a plus
- Must be aggressive, resourceful, ability to work independently as well as in a team environment

FINANCIAL ANALYST
- Male or female, between 24 to 32 years old
- Minimum of one (1) year experience in Financial Analysis
- Experience in Project Profitability Management and Business Case Development an advantage
- Strong analytical, communication and inter-personal skills
- Can work under pressure

JAVA DEVELOPER
- Male or female, between 23 to 35 years old
- Minimum of 1 year experience in Java development
- Knowledge in Web Applications Server and Database, required
- Exposure in Rapid Application Development, an advantage
- Must be creative, innovative and excellent in communication skills
- Team player and diligent worker

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR
- Male or female, between 23 to 35 years old
- At least 2 years experience in IT production operations
- Web Technology Savvy
- Required Skill(s): Linux/Unix, Platform environment
- Experience and knowledge in Systems Management is a plus
- Proactive, strong interpersonal skills, team-oriented
- Ability to work well with minimal supervision, and can work well under pressure

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
- Male or Female, between 25 to 35 years old
- Proficient in TCP/IP Network
- Must have exposure in Wireless Network (GSM/GPRS/ 3G) related tasks or project
- Knowledge in network and system security, an advantage
- Possess good technical, analytical, communication and inter-personal skills
- With initiative, results-driven and ability to work independently as well as in a team environment

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR
- Male or Female, between 25 to 35 years old
- RDBMS Knowledge (proficiency on the following database: MySQL, Oracle, SQL, DB2)
- Exposure in live production database operation is a must
- Minimum of 2 years technical experience
- Platform skill(s): Linux/UNIX/Windows
- Strong technical/analytical/problem solving skills.
- Proactive, strong interpersonal skills, team-oriented
- Ability to work well with minimal supervision, and can work under pressure

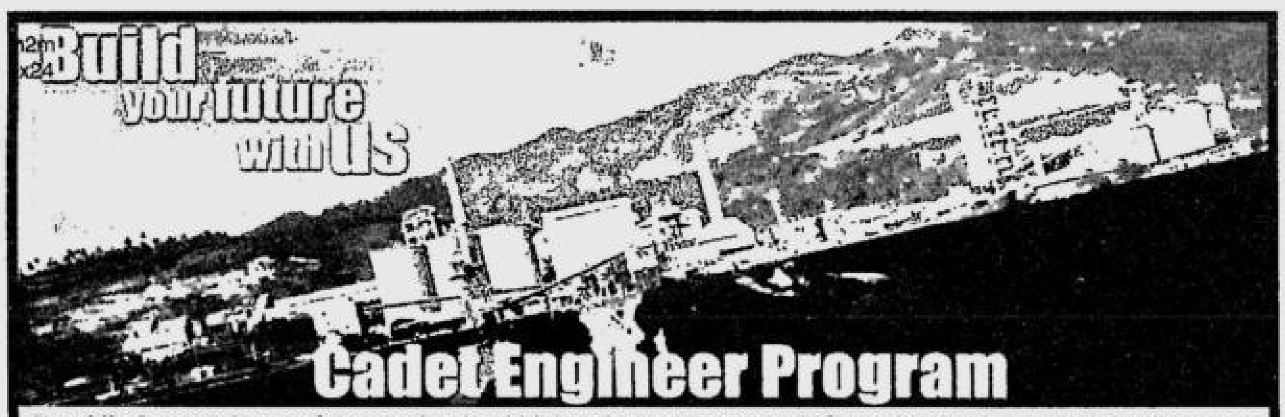
MESSAGING PLATFORM ARCHITECT
- Male or Female, between 24 to 35 years old
- Required skill(s): Linux/Unix, Platform,
- Proficient in JAVA/J2EE/J2ME and C Languages
- Experience in Java Messaging System a plus
- Strong technical/analytical/problem solving skills.
- Proactive, strong interpersonal skills, able to work and lead in a team environment
- Ability to work well with minimal supervision, and can work under pressure

CUSTOMER SERVICE ENGINEER
- Engineering graduate preferably ECE, CoE , EE or Electronics Technology/Instrumentation from a reputable school
- Should have at least 1 year work experience, preferably gained from a company in the IT, security or telecommunication industry
- Technical expertise on electronic, IT and telecommunication technologies
- Knowledge on cabling installation and equipment termination
- Computer literate and familiar with various Operating System and Office applications
- Excellent technical troubleshooting and analytic skills
- Must have at least a non-professional driver's license for operating a motor cycle or service car.
- Excellent communication skills is an advantage

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
- Male or female, between 30 to 40 years old
- Candidate must be a Certified Public Accountant
- With at least 5 years work experience in General Accounting, FS, Taxation, cost accounting and Finance
- Good communications, presentation and interpersonal skills
- Diligent in observing work hours and deadlines
- Analytical, detail-oriented and highly organized
- Must be a good team player

Interested parties are requested to send-in their most recent and comprehensive Curriculum Vitae with 2x2 photo at:

THE HR & ADMIN MANAGER
Suite 412 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower
2210 Don Chino Roces Avenue
Brgy. Pio Del Pilar, Makati City
Email Address: recruitment@fpigroup.net



Republic Cement Group of Companies, in which French cement company **Lafarge Cement** is a strategic investor, opens its doors to young engineers for its **CADET ENGINEER PROGRAM** - a fast track development program for future leadership positions in the group.

The **Cadet Engineer Program** is an international preparatory program which includes leadership and technical training in both local and foreign companies associated with Lafarge - to include any one of the group's plants in **Teresa, Batangas, Norzagaray, Iligan** and **Lafarge technical centers** within the Asean region, for potential placement in electrical and mechanical maintenance and production and process functions.

Our Group is a perfect synergy of local and foreign know-how and best practices, bringing together all our Group's decades of experience, expertise and leadership in cement manufacturing.

Our *requirements* are as follows:

- You must be a graduate of Mechanical, Chemical or Electrical Engineering
- You can either be a fresh graduate or with 1-2 years of work experience
- You must be in the top 10% of your graduating class or have a professional license
- You must possess leadership qualities
- You must be driven and willing to gain hands-on experience
- You must preferably live near Teresa, Bulacan, Batangas or Iligan, or be willing to live in those areas.

If you fit our requirements and are interested to join the CADET ENGINEER PROGRAM, please send your certificate of graduation (for fresh graduates) or transcript of records, as well as your resumes to Cecill Sese **on or before March 9, 2007** at Macecilia.Sese@ph.lafarge.com or to Lafarge Cement Services (Philippines), Inc., at the 18th Floor PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City 1226.

REPUBLIC CEMENT GROUP OF COMPANIES
Fortune Cement Corporation * FR Cement Corporation * Iligan Cement Corporation * Republic Cement Corporation
An Associated Company of Lafarge

TFI-CALL CENTER
TRAVELFAST® INTERNATIONAL INC.
2/F-Unit-G Kensington Place, 1st Avenue cor. 29th Street
Crescent Parkwest, Bonifacio Global City

We are currently seeking
SENIOR and JUNIOR APPLICATION DEVELOPERS
with start up mentality who will be part of the team of Information Services Department in our Manila office to build our enterprise architecture from the ground up.

Responsibilities:
- Design and develop both desktop and web applications
- Create functional specifications, design documents and test plans
- Collaborate with application developers and business to ensure the creation of production-quality designs and implementations
- Explore new techniques, tools, and technologies for the application
- Excellent communication skills as duties involve coordinating with business partners in the USA
- Manage multiple tasks and changing business requirements
- Evaluate, recommend and customize new tools for the development team

Requirements:
- BS or MS in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or related field
- Knowledge of airline travel business is a plus
- Experience / knowledge of object-oriented programming
- Strong skills in various programming and scripting languages such as Java, C/C++,Perl, PHP, JSP
- Knowledge of web services components such as XML, SOAP, WSDL, UDDI
- Knowledge of modeling notation such as UML
- Experience in developing web applications
- Strong analysis and problem solving skills
- Knowledge of open source frameworks such as Spring, Hibernate, Struts

If interested, please send your resume in ASCII text file, PDF or Word document format to ed@travelfast.com

---

Sales and Marketing Officer
- Male or Female, 28-35 years old with pleasing and outgoing personality
- Graduate of Marketing, Advertising, or any business related course from a reputable College / University
- With at least 2 years Product / brand management experience gained from a FMCG or Pharma Industry
- Able to conceptualize and implement sales programs, below the line & tri-media marketing strategies, media planning, budget setting, and visual merchandising
- With above average communication, negotiation, and computer application skills
- With leadership qualities, flexible, creative, with a "can do" attitude, and can adapt to fast phase working environment
- Preferably knows how to drive and can start immediately.

Send application to:
Unit 904 Atlanta Center, No. 31 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (063-2) 723-4376 (063-2) 721-4376;
Tel Fax (063-2) 721-4376
Email: betterherbs5@meridian.ph

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB Market

Rustan Marketing Corporation

Is in immediate need of top caliber individuals...

BRAND MANAGER FOR A MAJOR COSMETIC BRAND

- Female; Between 26-35 years old
- Degree in Business, preferably Marketing or Economics
- Must love cosmetics and colors and have sense of style
- Must have some brand experience preferably in cosmetics
- Young, energetic and innovative
- Analytical, thorough, and strategic
- Must have good rapport and is able to properly communicate with the press, customers, team, and peers

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

Rustan Marketing Corporation
Human Resources Management Division
(Executive Administration)
Ground Floor Accelerando Bldg.
395 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: jtgrajo@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

NOW HIRING

Administrative Manager
Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Administrative Management or equivalent.
Have 2-3 years experience in experience in administrative management
Excellent English communication skills - written and verbal
Computer literate

Project Manager
Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
At least 1 year experience in experience in administrative project management
Excellent English communication skills - written and verbal
Knowledge in Web Hosting, Web Design, ISP / Internet Connectivity an advantage
High level of computer literacy, Willing to work on a shifting schedule

Technical Support Representatives
Excellent English communication skills - written and verbal
Strong customer service, analytical and problem solving skills
At least 6 months experience in a call center environment preferred
Willing to work on a shifting schedule including weekends and holidays
Knowledge in Web Hosting, Web Design, ISP / Internet Connectivity an advantage
High level of computer literacy

Customer Service Representatives
Excellent English communication skills - written and verbal
Strong customer service, analytical and problem solving skills
At least 6 months experience in a call center environment preferred
Willing to work on a shifting schedule including weekends and holidays

Workforce Supervisor
Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
At least 1 year experience in the call center environment.
Extensive workforce management, forecasting and scheduling expertise with excellent quantitative and analytical skills
Strong knowledge of MS Excel and data analysis is required.
Ability to work within a management team in overseeing day-to-day operations to hit efficiency and productivity targets.
Working knowledge and experience with IEX software, Real Time Monitoring CCPulse, Blue Pumpkin or similar software

Qualified applicants may apply at:

KINGDOM BUILDERS, INC.
1601 Tycoon Centre Pearl Drive
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 631-0354
Look for Jara or Mei
Email: **softwaredevt@openintegrity.com**

UNDP

The project, "Philippines: Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy Development (CBRED)", funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) is in search of an International Consultant and a National Consultant to conduct the Project Mid-term Evaluation.

The project aims to help reduce the in the long-term the annual growth rate of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from activities using fossils fuels through the removal of the major barriers to the development and widespread utilization of renewable energy (RE) systems to replace part of the current fossil fuel use in the Philippines.

International Lead Consultant

Responsibilities :

1. Lead the documentation review and data gathering
2. Lead the Mid-Term Review (MTR) Team in planning, conducting and reporting on the evaluation
3. Decide on the division of labor within the Team and ensuring timeliness of reports
4. Use of best practice evaluation methodologies in conducting the evaluation
5. Lead the presentation of the draft evaluation findings and recommendations in-country
6. Conduct the debriefing for the UNDP Country Office in Manila and CBRED Project management Office
7. Lead the drafting and finalization of the MTR Evaluation Report

Qualifications :

1. Post-graduate in Engineering, Management or Business
2. Minimum of 10 years accumulated and recognized experience in renewable energy and climate change projects
3. Minimum of 5 years experience in project evaluation and/or implementation experience in the result-based management framework, adaptive management and UNDP or GEF monitoring and evaluation policy
4. Familiarity in similar country or regional situations relevant to that of the Philippines
5. Experience with multilateral and bilateral-supported RE and climate change projects
6. Comprehensive knowledge of international RE industry best practices
7. Advanced report writing skills in English

National Consultant

Responsibilities :

1. Participate actively in the documentation review and data-gathering
2. Contribute to the development of the evaluation plan and methodology
3. Conduct elements of the evaluation as determined by the International Lead Consultant
4. Contribute to the presentation of the evaluation findings and recommendations at the evaluation wrap-up meeting
5. Contribute to the drafting and finalization of the evaluation report

Qualifications :

1. Post-graduate in Engineering, Management or Business, or college degree in said areas with at least 10 years of project development and implementation
2. Minimum of 5 years of project management experience in RE and related climate change projects
3. RE and climate change training and technical expertise
4. Knowledge of RE industry and projects
5. Experience in multilateral and bilateral funded project development and implementation
6. Familiarity with Philippine national development policies, programs and projects

All application letters and comprehensive resumés should reach our office on or before 5 March 2007. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, tel. # 901 0273

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until March 5, 2007.

Driven, Ambitious Passionate,
Dynamic, **Goal-oriented,**
On top of the game, Team player

Are You TeleTech?

Now Hiring!

Technical Support Representatives

- Must have finished at least 2 years in college; if 1 year in college, applicant must have at least 1 year call center experience
- Preferably with at least 1 year of customer service or technical support experience

Inbound Customer Service Representatives -- Airline Reservations

- Must be a graduate of any 4-year course
- Preferably with at least 1 year of customer service or sales experience and/or 6 months of airline reservations experience

Applications for Business Support positions are also welcome. Visit www.hirepoint.com for details.

**** Cainta, Roxas and Cebu openings for immediate hiring***

Walk-in applicants are also accepted
Visit us Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Apply online through
www.HirePoint™.com

Pasay City
Building F, SM Corporate Offices,
SM Central Business Park
Pasay City, Metro Manila

Cainta
Level 2
Robinsons Place Cainta
Ortigas Ave. Extension
Cainta, Rizal

Novaliches
Levels 1 & 2
Robinsons Place Novaliches
Quirino Highway cor. Maligaya Rd.,
Novaliches, Quezon City

Fort Bonifacio
1st Level, Bonifacio
Technology Center,
31st St. cor. 2nd Ave.,
Bonifacio Global City,
Taguig City

Dumaguete
TeleTech Building
Dumaguete Business Park
Calindagan, Dumaguete City

Cebu
Levels 1 & 2 Oakridge IT Center
880 A.S. Fortuna St.,
Mandaue City, Cebu

Bacolod
Ground and Level 2,
Robinsons Metro Bacolod
Araneta Ave., Singcang,
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

Lipa
Levels 1, 2 & 3
Robinsons Place Lipa
J.P. Laurel Highway, Lipa City
Batangas

TeleTech is the leading provider of Customer Management and Business Process Outsourcing solutions worldwide. Headquartered in Denver, Colorado with a global network in 16 countries, TeleTech supports 40,000 employees in more than 80 Customer Management Centers (CMCs) located in North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific and Latin America. Since 2001, TeleTech has supported the world's largest companies in our eight state-of-the-art CMCs in the Philippines.

TeleTech®

The Pioneer in the Call Center Industry

• Pasay • Fort Bonifacio • Novaliches • Cainta • Lipa • Dumaguete • Bacolod • Cebu

OCEANAGOLD

Oceana Gold Limited, is a top 5 ASX listed gold company with an established reputation for operational innovation and environmental responsibility. OceanaGold operates the Macraes open cut and underground gold mines, as well as Reefton open cut gold mine in New Zealand. In September of 2006 OceanaGold merged with Climax Mining and acquired Climax's Philippine interests including the Didipio porphyry copper-gold deposit in Luzon and Exploration properties throughout Luzon and Mindanao. The merged entity currently produces 180,000oz per annum and has reserves of 3.9 Moz Au and 200,000 t Cu and resources of 10.4 Moz Au and 500,000 t Cu (Aug 2006). The Didipio copper gold project is expected to begin production in late 2008 resulting in forecast gold production of 550,000 Au equivalent ounces by the end of 2009.

OceanaGold's management and operating team has a successful track record in international project development and low-cost mining. They have specialized in identifying and acquiring projects with superior exploration or development potential and quickly developing them into operating mines.

OceanaGold is focused on growth through discovery, acquisition, and development of new mines in the Philippines and recognises the vital role exploration plays in this growth strategy. We are looking for the following key personnel to help manage our country wide exploration:

EXPLORATION GEOLOGISTS

Reporting to the Chief Exploration Geologist, a high level of technical expertise in exploration of porphyry deposits, low- and high-sulphidation epithermal gold deposits and orogenic gold deposits is essential for this role. Successful candidates will be team members or will manage a team of geologists, field assistants and contractors, and will design, organise and implement work programs and budgets incorporating field mapping, geochemical and geophysical surveys and drilling. The ability to work to deadlines and within agreed budgets is critical as is a practical, quality conscious, production orientated approach to exploration.

Minimum qualifications and experience

- A degree in geology is essential and a postgraduate qualification would be highly regarded.
- Must be a Philippine Licensed Geologist.
- At least five to ten years of experience in minerals exploration with a career focus on gold and copper deposits.
- Experience with Philippine tenement application processes and statutory reporting procedures.
- Experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, Project, MapInfo GIS, acQuire and Minesight software packages would be an advantage.
- Previous experience in a supervisory role is essential and previous experience in a mentoring role for exploration geologists would be highly regarded.
- A high level of safety and environmental awareness is essential.
- Current drivers license and first aid certificate would be highly regarded.

Applicants are invited to apply for the above position by emailing or posting a brief resume to the following:

The Chief Exploration Geologist
OceanaGold Ltd
applicants-geo@oceanagold.com.ph
PO Box 2878, Makati City Post Office 1268 Makati City Philippines

Complete Confidentiality is assured. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

Autohaus BMW

www.autohaus.bmw.com.ph

Sheer Driving Pleasure

For people with drive, an opportunity to join Autohaus BMW.

Marketing Services Manager

- Female
- 25-35 years old
- Preferably a graduate of AB Mass Communication or BS Marketing from a reputable school
- With at least 4 years credentials in Marketing Services and/or Corporate Communications
- Experience in the automotive industry an advantage
- With at least 2 years management / leadership background
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- High proficiency in MS Office platforms / programs

Interested applicants may send their resume to hrd@autohausbmw.com.ph or apply in person to:

The Human Resources Department
Autohaus BMW
184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 638 0734 loc. 120

Maxicare Career Opportunities

Maxicare Healthcare Corporation, one of the leaders in the HMO industry is looking for candidates for the following positions:

Corporate Accounts Assistant (12)

- Preferably graduate of Marketing or Management
- With pleasing personality
- Good oral communication
- Can do administration works
- Male or Female, 23 to 27 years of age
- Can work under minimal supervision

Corporate Accounts Officers (18)

- Marketing or Management discipline from a reputable institution
- With pleasing personality
- At least 2 years experience in Sales in the industry
- Extensive experience in key accounts management with proven strong track record in sales
- Excellent negotiation and presentation skills
- Male or Female, 25 to 31 years of age
- Can established good rapport with internal and external clients
- Computer literate excel and power point
- Good team player and can work under minimal supervision

Sales Manager (6)

- Marketing or Management discipline from a reputable institution
- With pleasing personality
- At least 3 years experience in Sales, in an HMO industry
- Extensive experience in key accounts management
- With strong leadership and managerial skills
- Excellent negotiation and presentation skills
- Holding same position at least 1 year
- Male or Female, 27 to 35 years of age

Customer Care Representative (50)

- Preferably medical allied course graduate (except nursing)
- Exposure in an HMO is an advantage
- Good communication skills
- Willing to do field work
- Excellent interpersonal and customer service orientation
- With pleasing personality
- Resourceful and team player
- Male 21 to 30, years of age

Assistant Manager for Primary Care Center (3)

- Graduate of Medicine, with Internal Medicine specialty
- With pleasing personality
- Willing to be assigned at Makati Medical Center, Medical City and St. Lukes Center
- At least 2 years experience in an HMO industry
- Male or Female, 27 to 35 years of age
- Excellent interpersonal and customer service orientation

Treasury Assistant (8)

- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Effective analytical and decision making skills
- Excellent interpersonal and customer-service orientation
- Can work under minimal supervision
- With pleasing personality

Corporate Based Nurses (10)

- Registered Nurse
- With experience as Company Nurse; exposure in HMO is an advantage
- Effective analytical and decision making skills
- Excellent interpersonal and customer-service orientation
- Can work under minimal supervision
- With pleasing personality
- Willing to be assigned in Cebu or Manila
- Preferably Cebu or Manila resident

Please send comprehensive resume to:
julie.llanes@maxicare.com.ph
For more career opportunities, visit our website www.maxicare.com.ph

---

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
(Private Sector)

An international development organization has an immediate need for a **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST** who will serve as the Private Sector Development Specialist in designing and managing private sector activities of the organization. He/She will work in collaboration with the entire team and will serve as a member of the Private Sector sub-team. The incumbent will be responsible for promoting sound decision making concerning the provision of maternal and child health, family planning services, as well as supporting HIV/AIDS/STD, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases like SARS and Avian Influenza, and tuberculosis prevention utilizing private sector approaches. S/he will establish goals for action, monitor progress, and recommend changes as needed. The incumbent will be responsible for evaluating and monitoring public sector policies that affect the private sector; and, in keeping all team members and stakeholders informed of the latest changes in national and local level laws and systems relative to the private sector delivery of maternal and child health, family planning, infectious diseases and other public health services and products. S/he will also serve as the Activity Manager of various contracts/agreements/grants for the implementation of the private sector activities. This will involve market analysis that will help determine the right products and services to be introduced by the private sector. The incumbent will also coordinate with senior government and private sector officials, and will backstop other Specialists whose work includes activities that have substantial private sector involvement. The candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in a field relevant to commercial health systems such as health or hospital administration, public and business administration, marketing, economics and other related fields, Ph.D., M.A., MBA, MS, and other post-graduate degrees will be considered, but appointment will normally require demonstrated ability to perform at the senior level.
- Six to eight years of progressively responsible, professional level experience in private health care institutions or health related commercial activities, at least five years of which, is on marketing of services and products.
- Excellent command of English (both written and oral), proficiency in the use of computer, ability to develop and deliver professional quality reports and presentations, strong interpersonal and teamwork skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, not later than February 23, 2007 to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

The British Council's purpose is to enhance the reputation of the UK in the world as a valued partner.

We are interested in filling the post of:

Examinations Services Marketing Manager (Ref: ESMM-07-01)

This post will provide effective marketing management to the Examination Services Department.

The successful applicant must be a college graduate and should be able to demonstrate:

- Marketing Skills (over 2 years substantial marketing experience)
- Achievement (ability to get things done)
- Working Strategically
- Customer Service Orientation
- Relationship Building
- Entrepreneurship
- Analytical Thinking

It is essential that an applicant has excellent oral and written communication skills in English. Previous employment by an international organisaton is desirable.

For full information and to download an application form, please visit our website:

www.britishcouncil.org.ph

Completed application forms should be sent to **HR@britishcouncil.org.ph indicating subject reference number.** For applicants without access to the Internet, application forms will be available at British Council Knowledge & Learning Centre, 10th Floor, Taipan Place, F. Ortigas Road (Formerly Emerald Avenue), Ortigas Centre, Pasig City. **No further documentation need be attached.**

Closing date: 9AM on 26 February 2007

BRITISH COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Industry leader in the production of electric energy from renewable sources (landfill biogas, anaerobic digestion biogas, wind, biomass, hydro, photovoltaic, etc.) is looking for a:

Project Manager

- Engineering degree (ME, EE, ECE)
- Male
- 30-40 years old
- At least 3 years management/supervisory experience
- Strong background in the planning and development of projects relating to the technical and construction aspects as well as in the management of the plants
- Ability to coordinate and liaise with local and national government agencies
- Experience in the energy field preferred

Field Engineer

- Engineering degree (ME, EE, ECE)
- Male
- 28-35 years old
- At least 2 years plant management and supervisory experience
- Must be able to fulfill production targets and operating budgets
- Experience in industrial maintenance preferred

Candidates must have strong interpersonal and leadership skills, must be hardworking and able to learn new technologies, must have strong computer skills particularly in the use of MS Office and MS Projects, must be available for travel overseas and undergo intensive training, must have good written and oral communication skills, and must be a team player. Knowledge of the renewable energy sector a plus.

Interested applicants may submit their resume to :

Pangea Green Energy Philippines Inc.
24/F Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City
Or email to:
jgo@pangeagreen.biz

The Asia Foundation
Internal Auditor

The Asia Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open Asia-Pacific region. With a network of 17 offices throughout Asia, an office in Washington, D.C., and its headquarters in San Francisco, California, the Foundation supports programs in Asia that help improve governance, law, and civil society; women's empowerment; economic reform and development; and international relations and has maintained an office in the Philippines since 1954.

The Asia Foundation is seeking to recruit an internal auditor to be based out of its Manila office. He or she will report directly to the Senior Internal Auditor. Compensation will be based on salary history and work experience.

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or business administration.
- Two years of audit and/or accounting experience.
- Non-profit/non-governmental experience preferred.
- CPA, CIA or CA designation is required.

Closing Date: February 28, 2007

Interested applicants are invited to send an email to jobs3333@asiafound.org requesting a detailed summary of the position responsibilities. All resumes and CV should be sent to the same email address or faxed to the number below.

The Asia Foundation
P.O. Box 193223
San Francisco, CA 94119-3223 USA
Attn: Human Resource Generalist
E-mail: jobs3333@asiafound.org
Fax: +1 415 956 4857
Phone inquiries discouraged

JOBCompact **Reach more qualified applicants. Advertise in JobMarket Compact** Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon. *Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.* JOB

YOUR GROWTH AT THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

Success is often the result of dedication to make the most out of the opportunities that come your way.

VISION - X INC. offers you the chance to start a promising career in the most gainful industry in our country today

BE A VXI CALL CENTER REPRESENTATIVE!

We are looking for seasoned call center professionals with experience in servicing financial accounts. Candidates must possess excellent English communication skills, strong customer service and sales orientation.

Earn as much as P50,000 a month!

PLUS: Training, Attendance and Performance BONUSES

VXI
VISION-X INC.

15th Floor, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza,
Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue,
Makati City
Monday to Friday, 7AM to 3PM

1024 Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue
Quezon City

Email: careersph@vxi.com

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE!

---

up itc
UP Information Technology Training Center

Certificate in Information Technology with 3 Specialization Tracks:

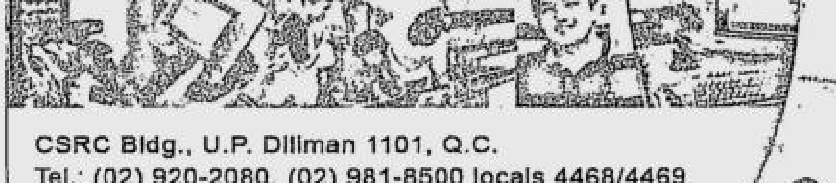
- *Applications Development*
- *Network Systems*
- *Mobile Computing and Embedded Systems*

One-year full time course for college graduates
Around 40 scholarship slots to be awarded

Helping You Build A Solid IT Career

Scholarship and Admission Exam for AY 2007-2008
Exam Dates: March 31 and April 28, 2007
Deadline for Applications is on March 28, 2007

Open House: Saturdays, 9am-12nn for orientation and facility tour.
Short Courses also offered.



CSRC Bldg., U.P. Diliman 1101, Q.C.
Tel.: (02) 920-2080, (02) 981-8500 locals 4468/4469
Telefax.: (02) 920-2036
Email: info@ittc.up.edu.ph
Website: http://ittc.up.edu.ph

JICA UPSITF

REPUBLIC CEMENT CORPORATION

Republic Cement Corporation, one of the leading cement manufacturers in the country, is in need of the following:

MINING ENGINEER

Requirements:
- Should be a licensed mining engineer
- Should have at least 3 – 4 years experience in open pit or quarry operations
- Must possess knowledge in short and long-term planning
- Must be competent in MS Office

MECHANIC

Requirements:
- Should be at least a graduate of a vocational course
- Should have at least 2 years work experience in Mechanical Works, preferably in a cement plant

Interested applicants may send their resumés directly to **Olive Mallare - Bringas** via email at **olive.mallare@ph.lafarge.com.**

Deltek.

Deltek Systems (Philippines), Ltd.

http://www.deltek.com

A US based, leading provider of innovative software products has IMMEDIATE openings for talented, dedicated software professionals.

SOFTWARE QUALITY CONTROL TESTERS/ANALYSTS

Job code: QC

Job Description:

Work with development and quality assurance teams in multiple countries to deliver new software products and product updates of impeccable quality. This position involves testing of Web-enabled and client/server ERP applications.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Accounting, Business, Human Resources, Industrial Engineering, Production Management, or IT-related degrees/courses.
- Knowledge and working experience of payroll, human resources, accounting, project accounting, procurement, or manufacturing processes.
- Experience in the use, analysis, or testing of an ERP, payroll, human resources, procurement, inventory, multi-currency billing or accounting software.
- Experience using Oracle and Microsoft SQL Server databases is a plus.
- Smart, motivated people willing to work extended hours at times
- Excellent written and verbal English communication skills
- Multi-lingual communication skills is a plus
- Software testing experience is a plus.
- Automated testing experience is a plus

BPM DEVELOPERS

Job code: BPM

Job Description:

Work with development teams in the U.S. and the Philippines to deliver new software products and product updates of impeccable quality. This position involves developing and upgrading catalogs, reports and models using Cognos Impromptu and Cognos 8.

Qualifications:

- Experience using relational database management (RDBMS) systems and SQL.
- Knowledge of data modeling and Entity-Relationship Diagrams.
- Programming experience using Java, Visual Basic, PowerBuilder, or similar languages.
- Minimum of four years of relevant industry experience.
- Proven track record of learning new products and technologies.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, using English.
- Some experience with ERP systems, data warehousing, or business intelligence programming would be a plus.
- Knowledge of Cognos products or other reporting tools would be a plus.
- Experience in Business Performance Management (BPM) is a plus.
- Experience with configuration management and a Web-based application is a plus.

Qualified Candidates will be offered very competitive salaries and benefits.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS TO:

DELTEK SYSTEMS (PHILIPPINES), LTD.
26th Floor, Tower 2
The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200
Email: applicant@deltek.com

IMPORTANT: PLEASE SPECIFY JOB CODE AS SUBJECT IN YOUR E-MAIL.

EOE

putting people first

it's different here

- *Guaranteed base wage increases every six months*
- *Allowances and incentives*
- *Fun environment*
- *Numerous professional growth opportunities*
- *Flexible schedules to fit your lifestyle*
- *Monthly & quarterly prize drawings*

We're Currently Hiring:

- Customer Care Representatives
- Technical Support Representatives

Two locations!
Accepting applications at the
Exportbank Plaza Site
HR Employment Office

24/F Exportbank Plaza
Don Chino Roces cor Sen.
Gil Puyat, Makati

17th & 18th Floors, Robinsons
Cybergate Center, Tower 1
EDSA corner Pioneer Street
Mandaluyong City

Phone: 857-7400 • Fax: 857-7431/32
Email: MakatiJobs@west.com

west®

West Contact Services, Inc.
westemployment.com

THE WORLD BANK GROUP IN THE PHILIPPINES

Requires a

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

The World Bank Group (WBG) seeks to help the Philippines improve the lives of its citizens through sustainable growth and greater social inclusion. Fiscal stability and public institutions that serve the common good are critical to these objectives. Our strategy is to support *Islands of Good Governance* in government agencies, local governments, and dynamic sectors that demonstrate how improved accountability and service delivery serve a greater number of the people.

The Government of Philippines is implementing a medium-term strategy that seeks to increase investment, savings and employment by building upon recent success in fiscal stabilization. The strategy lays considerable emphasis on implementing measures to increase both the volume and efficiency of private investment. The World Bank Group (WBG) has been an active partner with the Government in its efforts to establish both a stable macroeconomic environment and a business-friendly microeconomic business enabling environment (BEE). The World Bank Group support is delivered via analytic and advisory reports on policies and regulations and via funding of public investment projects that complement private sector investments.

In the Philippines, this support is being provided through a joint program involving both the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) - the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. Particular emphasis is being placed on improving the business enabling environment through advisory services and policy advocacy on issues of licensing and general business regulations at both the national and sub-national levels.

To facilitate and expand the World Bank Group's engagement with the Government, the Bank seeks to recruit a **Private Sector Development (PSD) Specialist** based in Manila. The World Bank offers a competitive compensation package based on local market conditions.

Reporting Arrangements
The PSD Specialist would be a shared resource and, as such, would be part of East Asia's Finance and Private Sector Development Unit (EASFPS) and PEP-Philippines. EASFPS is one of the units within East Asia's Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Department (PREM). PEP-Philippines is the IFC's advisory service facility focusing on improving the business climate in the Philippines. Functionally, the specialist would report to the Unit Manager, EASFPS based in Washington DC and the IFC BEE Program Manager for Indonesia and the Philippines. On administrative and country relation matters, the specialist would report to the Country Director in the World Bank Office Manila

Duration of Assignment
The assignment will be a Term appointment for a period of two (2) years subject to a probationary period of one (1) year.

Scope of Work and Responsibilities
The PSD Specialist would be expected to perform the following tasks:

1. Coordinate IFC and WB private sector development staff in the establishment and implementation a holistic approach and strategy to improve the business enabling environment for the WBG in the Philippines. This will require effective liaison and coordination among WB and IFC offices and competencies.
2. Track and report on policy and regulatory developments that either impact competition and efficiency in product and services markets or influence investment flows.
3. Develop and maintain qualitative and quantitative databases that support delivery of the Bank's analytic and advisory services in the area of private sector development.
4. Develop and maintain relationships with key economic ministries, industry associations and private sector firms with a view to understanding and identifying problems in the business environment.
5. Coordinate the work of the World Bank Group team in the production of analytic and advisory reports and technical assistance efforts that deal with private sector development issues.

Selection criteria:

- Graduate level equivalent degree preferably in Business Management or Economics.
- Minimum of ten years of technical and management experience and contacts in the Philippines in at least one of the following areas: policy analysis, formulation of business strategy, and policy advocacy.
- In-depth understanding of the structure of Filipino private sector markets and regulatory regimes.
- Full fluency in financial and regulatory analysis of firms and sectors and in the use of standard analytical, statistical and presentation software.
- Understanding of issues and debates in economic development.
- Understanding and knowledge of financial sector issues would be an advantage.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment and across specialist disciplines such as economics, infrastructure and social sector.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than March 2, 2007. **Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.** Send the above to:

The Human Resource Officer
Box 200 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

NOW HIRING

U.S. Stock Market Traders Entry Level Positions

Must be between 18 and 28 years old
Extensive training provided on proven day trading methods.

Join the fastest growing Day Trading firm in the world.

Unlimited Income based on performance
Guaranteed 10k/Month during training

Send resumés to Jobs@Manila.swifttrade.com
www.SWIFTTRADE.com

JUNICORP

"We Build Competence"

A Singapore-based Company with presence in Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand has immediate vacancy for its PHILIPPINE OFFICE:

LEARNING CONSULTANTS

- Dynamic, IT Savvy, Fast Learner, with Effective Presentation Skills
- Speaks Fluent English (Mandarin a plus factor)
- Can work in a Multi-National environment
- Can travel overseas on short notice
- With valid passport or travel documents
- Degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, Computer Engineering, or any related discipline
- Familiar with the products like Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, Adobe Macromedia Flash, Microsoft Office 2003, PC Networking, and PC Maintenance
- Microsoft and/or CompTIA Certified an advantage but not required
- FRESH GRADUATES ARE MOST WELCOME

Please E-mail your resume, not later than 28 February 2007, to:

APPLY@JUNICORP.COM

- Training and Allowances will be provided to successful candidates.
- Excellent Salary awaits candidates who pass our examinations and requirements.
- Interviews will be held from February 27, 2007 to March 3, 2007

ENGINEERS NEEDED

POWER GENERATING FACILITY AND PETROCHEMICAL PLANT PROJECTS.

INTERESTED ENGINEERS WITH APPROPRIATE EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT DETAILED PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS. ATTRACTIVE AND HIGHLY COMPETITIVE PAY RATES.

WE NEED ENGINEERS (CIVIL, STRUCTURAL, MECHANICAL/PIPING, ELECTRICAL, PETROLEUM, INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL) WITH AT LEAST EIGHT (8) YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE ENGINEERING & DESIGN OF PETROCHEMICAL AND ELECTRIC POWER FACILITIES.

TO BE CONSIDERED, THE CANDIDATE MUST BE A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, SKILLED IN CAD (2-D OR 3-D IS DESIRED), AND HAVE WORKED WITH WORLD-CLASS AMERICAN ENGINEERS/CONTRACTORS, FLUENCY IN WRITTEN AND SPOKEN ENGLISH IS REQUIRED.

MECHANICAL/PIPING ENGINEERS MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN ROTATING EQUIPMENT RELIABILITY/AVAILABILITY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS, HEAT EXCHANGERS, PIPING LAYOUT, STRESS ANALYSIS AND PIPE SUPPORT DESIGN.

RESUMÉ MUST BE IN MICROSOFT WORD DOCUMENT AND FORWARDED **AS ATTACHMENT** TO THIS E-MAIL ADDRESS: 24SevenGroup@gmail.com

ONLY THOSE WITH APPLICABLE EXPERIENCE WILL BE CONTACTED FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW.

McLarens Young International Loss Adjusters are looking to increase the service they provided to the insurance market in the Philippines.

We wish to continue providing a top quality professional claims service to our many international and domestic clients. If you are an experienced adjuster, engineer or surveyor looking for a new challenge why not give us a call.

Unit 2007, 20th Floor
88 Corporate Center
Valero cor. Sedeño Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City

Tel.: 889 4696 / 89 4932
Fax: 889 0390
Email: manila@mclarensyoung.com
Web: www.mclarensyoung.com

Michael Murphy ACII ACILA
President

FROMATECH INGREDIENTS BV IS LOOKING FOR AN

FROMATECH

Area Sales Manager

based in **The Philippines.**

We are an international company, active in the development, production, sales and distribution of a broad range of flavours, flavour systems, cheese-based powders and seasonings for the food and snacks industry.

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for developing excellent commercial relationships with new accounts in the Food Industry.
- Responsible for analysis of customer needs.
- Achievement of the sales targets.

Requirements:

- Experience in Flavour or Ingredient sales a plus.
- Degree in Food Science, Chemistry or related field.
- Experience in the food manufacturing related industry preferred.
- Strong personality, excellent team player.
- Commercially oriented with an enormous personal drive for success.
- Opportunity driven.
- Fluent in Local and English language.
- Willing to travel when needed.
- Able to divide attention and efforts over a number of projects at the same time.

More details you will find on our website: www.fromatech.com under *career*. Applications that do not meet the requirements will not be considered. Send your current CV and cover letter as soon as possible to: jobs@fromatech.com at the attention of Mr. G. van der Veer, HR Manager.

Milrose

BE A PART OF THE FASTEST GROWING DEVELOPER in the PHILIPPINES..
We are in need of the following:
FOR LIPA, BATANGAS, MAKATI AND ALABANG BRANCHES

2 BROKER MANAGERS
Preferably a licensed Broker
At least 5 years experience in Broker Management
12 PROJECT CONSULTANTS
Newly Graduate, any 4 year course
1 PROJECT ENGINEER
Civil Engineer, At least 3-5 years experience on Site Development works
2 TREASURY STAFFS
1 year experience working in a bank (4 year.course)
2 ACCOUNTING STAFFS
Newly Grad or w/ 1 yr. experience (B.S.Accountacy)
2 MARKETING STAFFS
At least w/experience in any Marketing Company for 1 year.

BRING YOUR 2 COPIES OF RESUME WITH PICTURE AN INTERVIEW WILL BE HELD AT MILROSE REALTY DEV. CORP KENNEDY CENTER BUILDING, PRIME ST. CORNER VENTURE ST. MADRIGAL BUSINESS PARK, ALABANG METRO MANILA. Near Meralco Citibank and Alabang Hills FEBRUARY 20, 2007 9:00 AM

FOR YOUR CONCERNS CONTACT 850-6757/ 850-6729
[illegible] LOOK FOR LIANNE

Explore the most global hotel company.

InterContinental Hotels Group owns and manages a portfolio of well-respected brands recognized the world over. An industry pioneer, we are the largest hotel company by number of rooms and manage the world's largest loyalty program. Our expansion shows our commitment to sustained growth into the future. We seek enthusiastic, friendly people who will lend their talents to help us realize our vision of being the world's leading hospitality brand owner.

With more than 3,800 hotels in 6 continents across more than 100 countries, WE are the most global Hotel Company.

IHG

InterContinental Hotels Group

Address: 29/F, Tower II, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave, Makati City
Website: www.ichotelsgroup-phlro.com
Email: phlro.resumes@ihg.com
Tel: 8578800 **Fax:** 8578881

Our Philippine Reservations Center is looking for:

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES / RESERVATION SALES AGENTS

(English, Spanish, Korean, or Arabic)

Job summary

- Represents the Company by coordinating all aspects of Priority Club Programs and serves as liaison between the guest and hotels in order to maintain member satisfaction
- Delivers Individualized Customer Experiences by focusing on finding hotel accommodations that will best fit our guests needs

Requirements

- Must be a Bachelor/College degree holder
- Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills with one of the following languages: English, Spanish, Korean, or Arabic
- Customer service and/or sales experience an advantage
- Education and experience in the hospitality or IT industry an advantage
- Must be willing to work on a rotating shift
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

Other available positions:

E-Contacts Web Support, Hotel Performance Support Specialists and Data Management Coordinators.

BUSINESS OBJECTS/SAS ANALYSTS

Job summary

- Performs periodic updates on Business Objects Web Intelligence data
- Delivers regular Dashboard reports and Business Objects ad-hoc queries
- Provides analytical support on data issue researches

Requirements

- Must have a degree in Business, Marketing, Statistics, Economics, Computer Science or any related field
- At least 2 years working with relational decision-support databases (preferably a data warehousing environment), along with demonstrated quantitative skills
- Strong experience with SAS, SQL and Business Objects
- Must be able to prioritize and handle multiple projects
- Must have good communication skills
- Must be able to work with minimal supervision

IHG Employees enjoy:

Great people & opportunities, training and development, bonuses and benefits, discounts in any of our international hotel brands.

IHG InterContinental Hotels Group | InterContinental Hotels & Resorts | Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts | Hotel Indigo | Holiday Inn Hotels Resorts | Holiday Inn Express | Staybridge Suites | Candlewood Suites

---

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERISTY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Center for Continuing Education

www.cce.ateneo.edu

is in need of the following:

- Marketing Services Group Head
- Sales Executive
- Office Assistant for Sales
- Office Assistant for Training
- Special Projects Assistant

Interested applicants may visit us from Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the 3/F Ateneo Professional Schools Bldg.,130 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or send your resumé to **agsb_cce@yahoo.com** on or before **February 23, 2007**.

The ATENEO brand is your career advantage.

Office Manager

For Oxford Business Group

Oxford Business Group (OBG) is a UK-based publishing, research and consultancy services organisation. OBG publishes economic and political intelligence on the markets of Eastern Europe, North and South Africa, The Middle East and Asia. Through its range of print and online products, OBG offers comprehensive and accurate analysis of political, macroeconomic and sectoral developments, including banking, capital markets, energy, infrastructure, industry and insurance.

Written by a team of seasoned analysts, based on the ground for six months, the critically acclaimed series of economic, political and business reports have become the leading source of intelligence on the rapidly developing countries in the regions they cover. OBG's online economic briefings provide up-to-date in-depth analysis on the issues that matter for thousands of subscribers worldwide.

OBG is now opening its research for the Philippines report which will be published at the end of the year 2007. For this project, we are seeking an Office Manager with experience. We require perfect Spoken and Written English.

The position is based in Manila.

The responsibilities will be as follows:

Your primary role is to provide administrative assistance to both the Country Director and to the Editorial Manager.

- Arranging meetings for staff. Phoning/faxing introductory faxes etc.
- Assisting editorial and advertising staff with research
- Providing translation in meetings/interviews when needed.
- Booking all hotel rooms/air tickets and getting fax confirmations.
- Office coordination
- Maintaining all office supplies
- Organizing the delivery of books
- Press releases-in the beginning and end of the project press releases are published in the local press.
- Organisation of the Project Official Launch.
- Assisting the Country Director

Contact: ccouronne@oxfordbusinessgroup.com
Visit our website: www.oxfordbusinessgroup.com

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc.

AIG INTERNATIONAL GROUP,INC. (AIG) is a fortune 500 company and the world's leading international insurance and financial services organization, with operations in approximately 130 countries.

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc. (AIG-BPSI) is a business process outsourcing (BPO) company serving the needs of AIG American General Life Insurance Companies. AIG-BPSI invites you to be part of its pioneering and fast-growing operations. Successful candidates will undergo intensive training and can look forward to a financially rewarding and enriching career.

WE ARE HIRING !

Director of Quality Improvement

Role:

Experienced in operations, quality management, project management, and/or consulting services to serve as the Director of Quality Improvement. This individual will train managers in quality techniques such as Six Sigma, lead improvement projects throughout all areas of the business, and develop quality management strategies for continual improvement.

Requirements:

•Required skill: Six Sigma
•Graduate of any four-year course
•Willing to work in the night shift
•Excellent verbal and written English communication skills
•Preferably ceo/svp/avp/vp/directors

Treasury Accounts Officer

Role:

Assists the Finance Director and Treasurer in carrying out the cash management and treasury responsibilities. Provides adequate analysis of cash flows and treasury management to ensure the liquidity of the company while safeguarding against cash flow risks and enhancing returns of cash assets.

Requirements:

•3 yrs working experience as a Treasury Staff Member
•Bachelor's degree in Accounting is preferred or business related course with financial economics background.
•Good skills in report writing and analysis and communication in an interactive function.
•Knowledgeable about cash flow & insurance management, collections & remittances, cashiering & money market investments, insurance management and banking functions among others.
•Posses IT skills to effectively perform work.

IT Manager

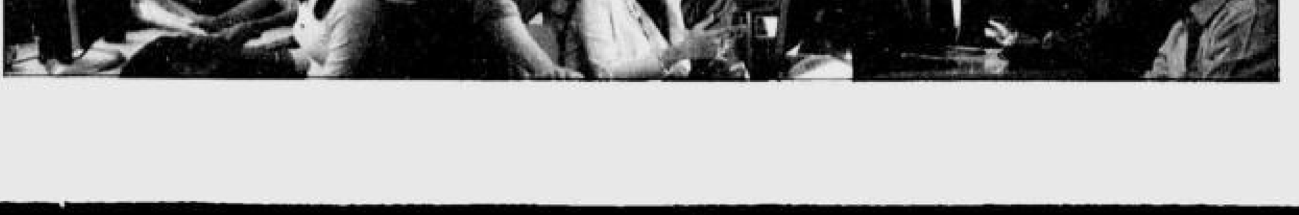
Role:

Responsible for the operations of the helpdesk, network/technical/voice support, and application/web development. This position is responsible for planning, implementation, scheduling, maintenance, status reporting, managing IT projects and IT budgeting. Ensures operational efficiency and maintenance, as well as availability, security and integrity of data.

Requirements:

•Graduate from a reputable school with Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Computer Applications or Computer Engineering.
•4 yrs supervisory experience with emphasis in helpdesk operations, network design, computer hardware, voice technology & project management.
•2 yrs supervisory/managerial experience.
•Knowledgeable with CISCO networking hardware and AVAYA voip hardware and software
•Ability to work effectively across language and cultural barriers
•Willing to work graveyard shifts

Please submit your resume with 2x2 picture and TOR at the 8th Floor Philamlife IT Building,Madrigal Business Park, 1207 Acacia Avenue Alabang, Muntinlupa City or email us your resume at BPSI-APPLICANTS@AIG.COM.



WORKING PEOPLE

E-mail: workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WHAT TO REMEMBER WHEN LOOKING FOR WORK

Are you driving those jobs away?

By Loree Cruz-Mante
Contributor

THERE ARE COUNTLESS REASONS why people find jobs every single day. There are probably as many reasons why some people do not find them.

Today, more than at any other time in the past, advice for jobseekers is there for the taking. The Internet alone provides such a wealth of information that if jobseekers spent all of their time absorbing what they can find there, they would have no time left to look for a job!

Much has been said about how to look for a job but not much about what jobseekers do to drive jobs away. Let me share some observations that jobseekers would do well to remember as they go through the exciting journey that is job search.

Not knowing

Far too many jobseekers have no idea what they're looking for. The "any job will do" mentality may be understandable for new entrants into the world of work, such as new graduates or housewives looking for work after the children are old enough to be left alone. But for those who have known what it is like to work, this thinking is unacceptable.

Consider this: Even when one shops at the Greenhills *tiangge*, salesclerks ask: "What are you looking for?" Knowing that you are looking for clothes and not wicker baskets certainly directs the search. Specifying work outfits is even better, and narrowing it down to blazers is best.

Knowing what kind of job you are looking for does not come when you are lining up at the job fair. It is the product of carefully assessing who you are, what you can do, what drives you, and which environments you thrive best in. It is a process that you must do before you venture out.

You won't find a job—at least, not the one that fits—if "any job" is good enough. You must set the specifics of what you want. It's not for you to find a job and then force yourself to fit. Forcing a fit is probably why job satisfaction is such an elusive concept.

Dreams with no foundation

Dreams will forever remain dreams if you don't put a foundation to hold them up. Your dream job can only be realized if you work towards it by making yourself capable of claiming it at some future time.

I once interviewed someone who wanted to be a newspaper columnist. Her timetable: ASAP. I asked what kind of portfolio she had to show that she was a writer recognized enough to justify a column. She said she hadn't yet written a thing in her life! And did she plan to start writing soon? Not really, she said, because she was going to spend her time applying to be a columnist.

A young lady applicant approached a man cleaning the glass doors of a fast food outlet. She handed her biodata with a photo paper-clipped to it.

Respecting the process

The man hesitated since his hands were wet and dirty but the lady insisted.

He grudgingly dried his hand on his pants, took the biodata by one corner, crumpling it a bit. He approached the counter girl who was fixing a *halo-halo* order. She took the biodata with hands sticky with syrup and looked for the manager.

In what condition did the biodata arrive in the manager's hands? Given the applicant's carelessness, it can also be assumed that her photo was not signed and when separated from her biodata, who on earth would know who she was?

Neglecting your homework

Such carelessness does not portend well for a future employee. If this jobseeker cannot respect the process enough to ensure that her precious biodata does not have glass cleaner or *garbanzos* smudged on it, what kind of worker would she be? Of course, she would probably blame the man if she didn't get a call.

If you're truly interested in a job, you would want to know as much as you can about it.

A young man applied for an editorial assistant position in the lifestyle section of a newspaper. When asked what he thought of the layout, he said: "I haven't seen your paper yet." Another young applicant eyeing a marketing post in a personal care company was asked about the company's products. She had no idea what they were.

Research is a key component of your job search. There is no way you can pull off an interview if all you do there is showcase your ignorance. There is nothing more irritating to an interviewer than applicants who know nothing of the company they want to hire them.

Wrong method

Some jobseekers mistakenly give most of their job search time to the methods that are least successful. Networking, for example, has been found to be 70-80 percent effective. Yet, many jobseekers hardly ever make use of their networks and would rather compete for advertised jobs.This is not to say that jobseekers do not find jobs through the advertised job market. But if jobseekers do not look in the hidden job market (those jobs that are not advertised) through their networks of friends, family, etc., they miss out on opportunities where their chances of employment are even greater than the highly competitive advertised job market. Studies show that 80 percent of jobs are not advertised but are disseminated through the company's network of clients, customers, employees and associates.

Jobseekers would do well to appropriate time wisely. It is smart for you to do all the search methods as much as possible (networking, print and Internet ads, job fairs, search firms, targeted mailing), but you should spend more time on those methods that deliver the greater success.

Avoiding pitfalls

Job search is an exciting time of life. If things are taking longer than you expected, it might be time to think about the things you do that make jobs go farther away from you instead of closer. It could be that you overprice yourself, or that you come on too strong, or that you give ambiguous and vague responses. Or that you simply smile too much, or appear sloppy, or don't look people straight in the eye. The worst thing you could do, of course, is to complain about your former employer or badmouth your boss.

In job search, how not to find a job is just as important as how to find it.

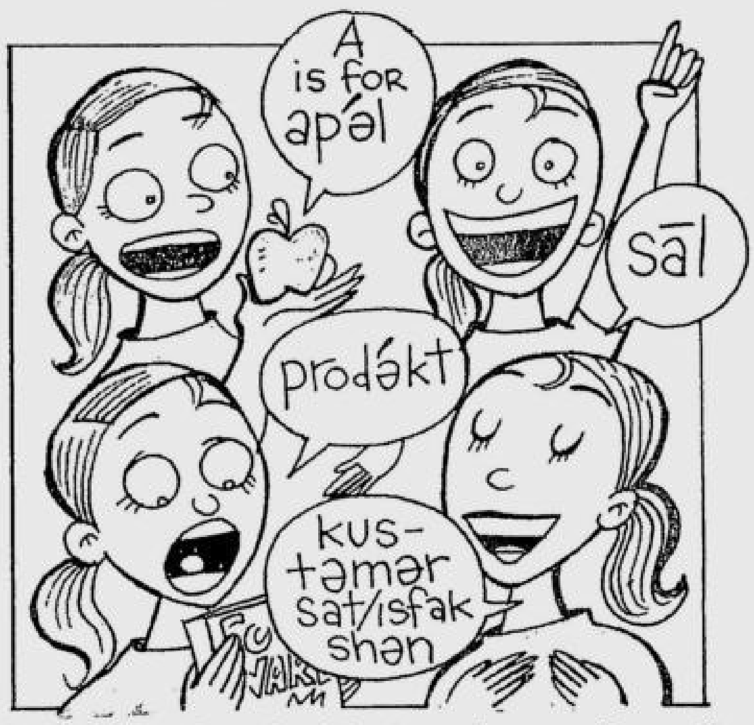
(Loree Cruz-Mante is a human resources and organization development practitioner, trainor and career counselor. She is the author of "Biyaheng FX: Round Trips to Pinoy Life.")

You might need training before applying with a call center

WHILE MOST COLLEGE GRADUATES immediately start working on a job that directly involves their field of specialization, a good majority of them gravitate to call centers to gain experience in a corporate setting.

Many cite the above-average compensation as one of the major motivators for people who join this industry, but other than that, the fact that most contact centers hire fresh graduates—and for some, even those who haven't finished their degrees—with minimum or no work experience and give them good pay, seems to be one of the chief attractors of the contact center industry.

The fact that most contact centers also work in team contexts appeals to many since it allows them to improve their behavior and attitude in group dynamics and develop their skills in time management and other skills that can help them in their career. And if this weren't enough, most ads for contact centers brandish their team leaders, QA specialists and other people holding management positions who were able to move up from the agent level to several rungs higher in the corporate ladder in—get this—a matter of one to two years, or in some case, even months!



These things are the perfect foil to draw in fresh graduates who are oftentimes addled with energy and drive to succeed.

Misconceptions

However, most graduates have a lot of misconceptions about this trend. Contact centers do accept fresh graduates with no experience but it doesn't mean that they don't have minimum requirements. Call center applicants have to undergo an intensive screening process where their language proficiency, customer orientation and personality profiles are assessed. In fact, these "minimum" requirements may already be considered stiff and stringent by some people when one considers the fact that most call centers only hire 4-5 people out of a hundred applicants in a given day. Moreover, this statistic doesn't only apply to those who come straight out of school. Even people who have worked in various industries sometimes fail to pass the screening procedures that most contact centers administer to its applicants. Those who do not make it are sometimes left clueless as to why they did not qualify. The disappointment is shared by recruitment teams of these call centers. The low success rate also affects how fast their companies' programs can grow, since the industry is powered primarily by human resources.

Training addresses the problems of the aspiring agent and the company's HR. Classes for English skills typically last for five days, another five is for Agent skills classes that cover culture and geography training, basic product info, telephone skills and delivering customer service. The 10 days may help increase the chances of the participant getting hired.

TeleDevelopment Services Inc. provides such training to contact center applicants. It also has "near-hire" training, designed for those who fall slightly below the passing mark.

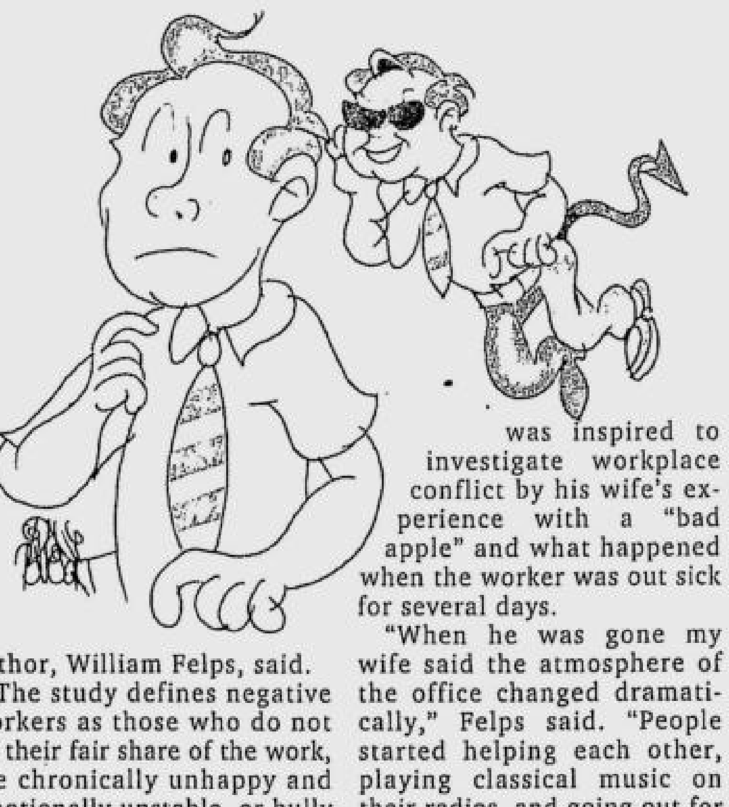
The company is holding a two-day training convention on Feb. 21-22 at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. The meet will tackle topics that directly relate to the training-related issues that most contact centers are concerned with. *(E-mailpdelmund @teledevelopment.com or call 631-8230 for details.)*

Weed out the bad apples in the workplace

WASHINGTON—ONE "BAD apple" can spread negative behavior like a virus to bring down officemates or destroy a good team, according to a new study examining conflict in the workplace. Negative behavior outweighs positive behavior, so a bad apple can spoil the whole barrel, but one or two good workers can't "unspoil" it, researchers at the University of Washington said in the current issue of the journal Research in Organizational Behavior.

"Companies need to move quickly to deal with such problems because the negativity of just one individual is pervasive and destructive and can spread quickly," said co-author Terence Mitchell, a professor of management and organization.

If a bad apple slips through screening in the hiring process, he or she should be placed to work alone as much as possible, the study's lead author, William Felps, said.



The study defines negative workers as those who do not do their fair share of the work, are chronically unhappy and emotionally unstable, or bully or attack others. Felps said he was inspired to investigate workplace conflict by his wife's experience with a "bad apple" and what happened when the worker was out sick for several days.

"When he was gone my wife said the atmosphere of the office changed dramatically," Felps said. "People started helping each other, playing classical music on their radios, and going out for drinks after work. But when he returned to the office, things returned to the unpleasant way they were." "He truly was the bad apple that spoiled the barrel," Felps said. The researchers said they found that a single "toxic" or negative team member can be the catalyst for a group's downward spiral.

In a follow-up study, the researchers found the vast majority of the people they surveyed could identify at least one "bad apple" with whom they had worked and who had produced organizational dysfunction. Hiring managers could head off the problem by being more thorough when screening potential employees, Felps said.

He recommends checking references and administering personality tests to weed out those who are "really low on agreeableness and emotional stability."

Reuters

Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38
"Do to others as you would have them do to you."

The golden rule

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

A JOKE IS TOLD ABOUT TWO APPLICANTS FOR A JOB. THE manager asks the first one, "What is one plus one?" "Two" the applicant answered. The second was asked the same question, and the answer came, "Whatever amount you want, Sir." The second applicant was hired while the first was not.

This joke could somehow reflect the attitude of some employers who would want their workers to give them more and more profit through their work but would not give the workers even a just salary. They simply want their managers, workers and everyone else in the workplace to sheepishly obey their biddings, and slavishly work to attain the company goals which may be right and good ones. But, they would not give the workers the joy of being considered as important partners in the company or business even with only their sweat, dedication and hard work as equity investment to the company's capital. They would not grant benefits to the workers as they would like to enjoy all the benefits from their investments. They would not apply the "golden rule" in their business and in the workplace.

Similarly, however, some workers would also be guilty of non-compliance with the basic "golden rule" by demanding from the employers something that they themselves would not work hard for; asking for unreasonable wage increase and abundant benefits which are beyond the company's resources, and which do not match with their work performance or output.

When there is too much selfishness in both employers and workers and utter disregard for the "golden rule" and Jesus' teachings, work and the workplace becomes a joke. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Bikoy, the hero

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

BIKOY IS A SIMPLE ALL-AROUND CONSTRUCTION WORKER. Having learned things "from experience" he could be called upon to do anything from mixing cement to painting walls. Orphaned at age eight, he was raised by his grandparents who taught him to "do to others as you would have them do to you." Growing up in the hands of a righteous *lolo* and a religious *lola*, it was easy for the child Bikoy to stay out of trouble—he simply obeyed his grandparents' rules. Following the Golden Rule it became impossible for him to offend anyone because he was always nice to everyone.

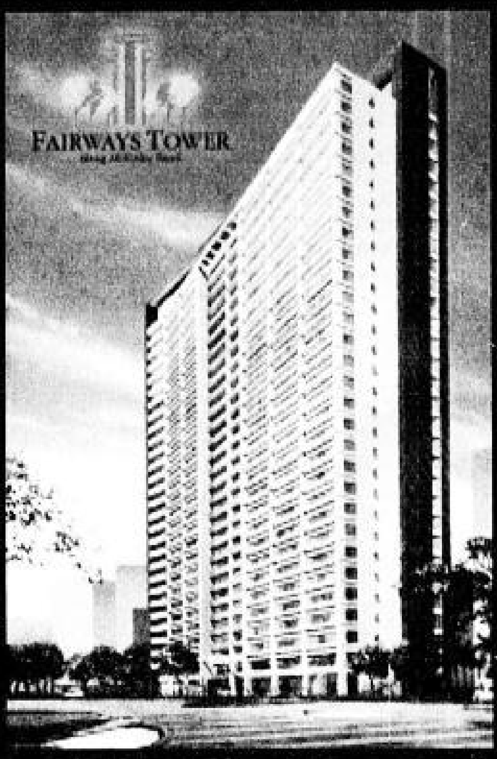
Bikoy carried this good-boy trait well into adulthood, at the workplace; remembering his grandparents' golden admonitions, he would do to his coworkers as he would have them do to him. The thing is, while Mang Bikoy has created no enemies, his goodness has drawn human parasites to his circle—unscrupulous persons who take advantage of his good nature—borrowing money they do not intend to return, etc. while he himself never borrows from anyone.

Some of his more streetsmart coworkers would taunt him, "*Huwag kang tanga, Bikoy; hindi na ganyan ang kalakaran ngayon! Hindi na uso mabait!*" (Don't be naïve, Bikoy; that's not the way things go these days! Being good has gone out of fashion!) Bikoy would just grin at them and go his usual way.

Others would have turned cynical—after all, what's the point in doing good to others when they clearly don't care to do good to you?—but Bikoy perseveres. Unknown to him, he is a hero for some, because he stands as the unfading proof of the goodness of God. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila @yahoo.com)*

BE PART OF THE WINNING TEAM !!!

Are you IN or OUT?



metropolitan

ONE McKINLEY

If you are creative, resourceful, energetic, confident, competitive and want the chance to EARN MILLIONS YEARLY, then join us as a:

PROPERTY CONSULTANT(S)

- Not more than 30 years old, male or female
- Graduate of any four year course from a reputable school
- Possess excellent communication skills
- Has pleasing personality and can deal effectively with clients
- Selling experience is an advantage
- Fresh graduates/entry level applicants are welcome to apply

INCENTIVE: Possible trips in U.S., Europe and Asia for proven closers.

ONE DAY RECRUITMENT for **PROPERTY CONSULTANT(S)** is scheduled on **FEBRUARY 20, 2007** from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the **8/F RFM Corporate Center Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City.**

Interested applicants may contact or text 0916-5223119 c/o April Tani

BROKER(S)

- Male or female
- With proven track record in real estate sales
- Will market and sell residential properties
- Possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be flexible, aggressive, enterprising and a team player

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- College graduate preferably major in Marketing or related business courses
- Male or Female not more than 30 years old and with pleasing personality
- With at least one (1) year working experience
- Articulate, aggressive and people-oriented
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills
- Knowledgeable in computer applications

ACCOUNTANT

- Accountancy graduate or its equivalent
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Male or female not more than 30 years old with pleasing personality
- Has minimum of one (1) year related work experience
- Must be honest, detail- oriented, hardworking, organized and responsible
- Adept in MS Office Applications and can work under minimum supervision
- Good in oral and written communication skills

Respondents are requested to send their resumes and recent 2x2 photo to the following addresses:

Via email : pti.hrd@philtown.com.ph
Via mail : (please indicate position on the envelope)

PHILTOWN HRD
7/F RFM Corporate Center
Pioneer cor. Sheridan Sts., Mandaluyong

PHILTOWN
Philtown Properties
Beyond condos, Landmarks.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVES

Will be responsible for selling advertising space in the country's first scootering magazine. He or she will also be in charge of soliciting sponsors for our annual rider events and will be working on a fixed bi-monthly sales target.

Applicants must:

- possess a college degree
- have at least 3 years of sales experience
- own or ride a motorcycle or scooter
- be driven and goal-oriented

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Responsible for providing editorial content on regional motorcycle and scooter-related events. He or she must be a local resident of any of the following areas: North Luzon (Ilocos, La Union, Baguio, Pangasinan), Central Luzon (Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan) and South Luzon (Laguna, Quezon, Bicol).

Applicants must:

- be willing to work on a per project basis
- have working knoweldge of motorcycles, scooters and the local riding scene
- be an active participant in local or regional scooter or motocycle events
- be willing to meet tight deadlines

APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉS TO:

scooteristas@yahoo.com
or Scooterista Magazine,
2211 Leon Guinto, Malate, Metro Manila

For Immediate Hiring!!

Our Company is one of the leading distributor of Medical Supplies and Equipment. We are looking for career oriented people for the vacancies:

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

For deployment to: Cebu, Manila & Luzon area.

Qualifications:

- Male/Female not more than 28 years old, college graduate
- Preference will be given to graduates of Medtech and Nurses.
- 2 years sales experience in the medical supplies and equipment.

Good starting salary, transportation allowance and monthly commission. Provincial applicants email resumé to unimed@pacific.net.ph. Manila applicants apply in person at #68 Pres. Osmeña Street, Rosario, Pasig City. For interview, contact Ms. Leny Puno at 656-5898 / 656-7165 / 09277085913.

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

- Candidate must possess at least Bachelor / College degree in accountancy / finance or equivalent
- With at least two (2) years experience in accounting works
- Must obtain a good exposure in General Acctg., FS, Taxation, costing & government compliance
- Proficient in oral and in written communication
- Computer literate
- Competitive Salary

Submit your resumé at:
414 El Grande Ave.,
BF Homes, Parañaque
Tel: 820-4826 Fax 8200662
E-mail: ahbginc@pldtdsl.net

Conditional USA Medical Scholarship

For Nursing students/RNs and Physicians. Are you ambitious, highly qualified and intelligent? Female, age 18 to 21, of good moral character. Willing to pursue further studies which will be fully sponsored.

Please call or text 0917-9421263 / 023731326.
You may also visit my website:
www.nursedoctoronline.com

JKF+DDC, INC., Unit G, 9th Floor, Strata 100
Bldg. Emerald Avenue, Pasig City
Email : ricky@jkfddc.com

We are currently hiring **Architects, Architectural Assistants** and **3D Renderers** and would like to invite prospective applicants to submit their resumés to the above stated address and email.

NO WALK-IN applicants will be entertained.

Home Guaranty Corporation

Notice of Vacant Positions

No of Vacant Positions	Position Title, Unit	Salary Grade	Minimum Qualification Requirements
			Course
1	Internal Auditor III, Office of the Board of Directors	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Commerce / Management / Economics or other related courses
1	Executive Vice President, Office of the President	29	Bachelor's Degree in Banking and Finance, Business Administration, Actuarial Science, Management, Accountancy, Marketing, Economics, or any other related course, preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
1	Department Manager III, Corporate Planning Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Economics / Industrial Engineering / Urban Planning or other related courses; preferably with Masters Units/Degree in a related course
1	Supervising Planning Specialist, Corporate Planning Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Economics / Industrial Engineering / Urban Planning or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Planning Specialist, Corporate Plannning Department	16	Bachelor's Degree in Economics / Industrial Engineering / Urban Planning or other related courses
1	Planning Analyst, Corporate Planning Department	13	Bachelor's Degree
1	Information System Analyst I, MIS Department	16	Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science / Computer Engineering / Information Technology or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Litigation Department	26	Bachelor of Laws; RA 1080; preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
3	Corporate Attorney IV, Litigation Department	23	Bachelor of Laws; RA 1080, preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Corporate Attorney V, Legal Services Department	25	Bachelor of Laws; RA 1080, Master's Degree in a related course
2	Corporate Attorney IV, Legal Services Department	23	Bachelor of Laws, RA 1080, preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
2	Supervising Credit Guaranty Specialist, Business Dev. & Accts Eval. Dept	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
2	Senior Credit Guaranty Specialist, Business Dev. & Accts. Eval. Dept.	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
3	Credit Guaranty Specialist, Business Dev. & Accts. Eval. Dept	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Supervising Credit Guaranty Specialist, Accounts Management Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Senior Credit Guaranty Specialist, Accounts Management Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Risk Management Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
1	Senior Credit Guaranty Specialist , Risk Management Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
3	Credit Guaranty Specialist , Risk Management Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Acquired Assets Officer V, Asset Management Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses, preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Supervising Marketing Specialist, Marketing & Sales Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Senior Marketing Specialist, Marketing & Sales Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Marketing Specialist, Marketing & Sales Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Supervising Trading Specialist, Treasury Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration and / or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Senior Accounts Specialist, Treasury Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration and / or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Controllership Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration major in Accounting; preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course; CPA
1	Accountant IV, Controllership Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration major in Accounting, preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course, CPA
2	Accountant III, Controllership Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus Administration major in Accounting, CPA
1	Accounting Specialist II, Controllership Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Commerce / Economics / Actuarial Science or other related courses
1	Budget Officer III, Controllership Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Commerce / Economics / Actuarial Science or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Human Resources Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses, preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
1	Training Specialist IV, Human Resources Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Human Resource Management Officer IV, Human Resources Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Human Resource Management Officer III, Human Resources Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses
1	Human Resource Management Officer II, Human Resources Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses
45	Total No. of Vacant Positions		

- **In addition to the above qualifications, interested applicants must also possess the following:**

Salary Grade	Civil Service Eligibility	Years of Relevant Experience	
		Area of Specialization	Managerial / Supervisory
29	Career Executive Service Officer / Eligible	7	5
26	Career Executive Service Officer / Eligible	5	3
20 - 25	2^{nd} Level (Professional) Eligibility or RA 1080, if required	3	-
16 - 18	2^{nd} Level (Professional) Eligibility or RA 1080, if required	2	-
13 - 15	2^{nd} Level (Professional) Eligibility	1	-

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumés, together with a description of the duties and responsibilities in their previous employment/s, not later than March 30, 2007, to:

THE PERSONNEL PLACEMENT COMMITTEE
c/o Ms. Corazon G. Corpuz
Office of the Vice President, Corporate Services Group
Home Guaranty Corporation
335 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

technology
summit
business
global
network
success

JUST IMAGINE...

- ABOVE INDUSTRY COMPENSATION PACKAGE
- WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS OFF
- UNLIMITED INCENTIVE SCHEME
- PERFOMANCE BONUS
- ALLOWANCE AND SPIFFS
- FIXED SCHEDULE
- OWN CUBICLE AND WORKSTATIONS
- WORLD-CLASS TRAINING
- MEDICAL AND LIFE INSURANCE
- TEAMBUILDING ACTIVITIES

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR YOUNG-&-TALENTED TEAM.

NATIONAL PEN is a leading international manufacturer and an award-winning distributor of unique writing instruments and promotional products. We maintain our Corporate Headquarters in San Diego, California with operations in Tennessee, Mexico, Canada and Ireland. Our company uses a variety of distribution channels worldwide.

Having established its footprint in the Philippine telesales industry, we need competent individuals to join our team to manage our existing customers in the United States and Europe.

now hiring

CALL CENTER ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE/ TELESALES REPRESENTATIVES

Will be responsible for achieving telesales objectives: selling, building relationships with & providing services to customers

NATIONAL PEN
PHILIPPINES LLC

42/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower
Ayala cor. Sen. Puyat Avenues, Makati City
Email: macuna@pens.com (indicate position)
www.nationalpen.com
Address applications to Kwik Acuña

A Transformative Marketing Company is currently on the lookout for dynamic and committed individuals to fuel its expansion:

MARKETING, PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

To assist the Marketing, PR and Communications Manager in spearheading campaigns.

The ideal candidate should be a Communications, Marketing or Business graduate; is proactive, patient and willing to work long hours; and has excellent MS Office skills (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

WRITER

To create written content such as press releases, advertorials, campaign presentations, creative event invitations, etc.

The ideal candidate should be a Journalism, Communications or Marketing graduate; very creative; strong research skills (particularly on the net); computer-savvy; proactive, patient and willing to work long hours.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Reporting directly to the ManCom, the ideal candidate should have at least 3 years experience as an Executive Assistant to top-level management. S/he should be a team-player, proactive, honest and patient.

RESEARCH AND MEDIA MONITORING ASSISTANT

To act as point person in the conduct of market research projects, as well as handle media monitoring.

The ideal candidate should be a Communications, Marketing or Business graduate; is proactive, patient and willing to work long hours; and has excellent MS Office skills (Word, Excel, Powerpoint). Preferably with experience in a similar capacity.

Interested parties may forward their Resume with 2x2 photo to: jingle.leomo@geisermaclang.com. Only qualified candidates will be called for interview. Previous applicants need not apply.

NOTICE OF VACANCY

SR. INVESTMENTS PLANNER

BS Commerce pref. CPA or with MBA; at least 2 yrs. exp. in investments strategy planning, development, & management; at least 8 hrs. relevant training

RISK MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

Pref. business-related degree; at least 1 yr. exp. in credit policy & risk management research & development; familiar w/ financial statements & reports presentation; at least 4 hrs. relevant training

INVESTMENTS PORTFOLIO ANALYST

Banking & Finance, Economics/related course; well-versed in investment risks analysis; proficient in reports & communications preparation

ACCOUNTS OFFICERS

(MAKATI/CEBU/CAGAYAN DE ORO/GEN. SANTOS)

Business-related degree; at least 1 yr. exp. in credit evaluation & monitoring; knowledgeable in financial projects & analysis, & MS Office applications; pref. resident of area applying for; willing to travel within the assigned area

CI / APPRAISER

Relevant bachelor's degree; at least 1 yr. exp. in property appraisal, pref. gained from banks/similar financial institutions; pref. licensed appraiser

**All vacancies require CSC Professional Eligibility*

Small Business Guarantee & Finance Corp. - HRD
17F 139 Corporate Center 139 Valero St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City.
Email: jpelingon@sbgfc.org.ph
Tel. 751-1888 x 1705

DTC

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN OUR TEAM!

FOR OUR CREWING OPERATIONS WE ARE IN NEED OF:

100 UPHOLSTERERS ($1309 4.72 OT/HR)
50 FITTER/MACHINIST ($1309 4.72 OT/HR)
100 CARPET LAYERS ($1309 4.72 OT/HR)
50 CARPENTERS ($1539 5.64 OT/HR)
50 VARNISHERS ($1309 4.72 OT/HR)
20 PLUMBERS ($1605 5.90 OT/HR)
20 TILERS ($1309 4.72 OT/HR)
20 ELECTRICIANS ($1605 5.90 OT/HR)

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

- MINIMUM 3 YEARS EXP. IN SEABASED/LANDBASE
- PHYSICALLY FIT
- CONVERSANT IN ENGLISH
- PREFERABLY NOT MORE THAN 40 YEARS OLD

WE OFFER GOOD COMPENSATION PACKAGE, STABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT, CAREER AND TRAINING DEVELOPMENT

Please apply in person with relevant documents & resume at:
Philippine Transmarine Carriers, Inc.
CELEBRITY CRUISES
4/F First Maritime Place
7458 Bagtican Street, San Antonio Village
Makati City
Tel. No. 898-1111
Contact Person: Mr. Thomas O. Dator

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS

A World Class International School located in Alaminos, Laguna seeks pre-school Head Teachers and Associates for a challenging curriculum patterned from the United States. Must have an exceptional oral and written English communication skills and B.S. Degree in Education with Emphasis on Family Life and Child Development. Master's degree preferred or at least 5 years experience. Proficiency in teaching and implementing International Progressive Education experience and accreditation a plus. Top compensation packages await successful applicants. Please e-mail resume to **joey@palmvalleycare.com** and to **jbcabrales@yahoo.com.ph**

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS

The leading provider of Mobile eCommerce applications for telcos, banks and credit card companies has immediate openings for Computer Programmers.

Candidates proficient in Visual Basic, Java and SQL Data Base with basic knowledge in HTML, JavaScript, Linux and networking are preferred.

To the successful candidates await a competitive compensation package and an exciting career opportunity for advancement.

Apply in person with latest resume.

Jade Pacific Telecom
INGENIOUS WIRELESS APPLICATIONS
Penthouse, Jade Centre
105 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 633-9639 to 41
Email: cvn@jade.com.ph

MenoGaia
The Leader in total home Care in Japan

WE ARE IN NEED OF:

(10) ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHER

> Excellent in Oral and Written English
> Knowledge in Japanese and Korean Language is an advantage but not a requirement
> Teaching Experience is an Advantage
> Call Center and Broadcasting Experience a Plus
> Must be willing to work on shifts

RESOURCE & RESEARCH STAFF

> Excellent in Oral and Written English. Teaching Experience is an advantage
> Will provide and develop lesson materials to be used for online English Courses.

GENERAL OFFICE AFFAIRS STAFF

> Must be knowledgeable in accounting and human resources

For inquiries or submission of resume, contact the following:
Able Advertising Agency
Unit 8 Bohol Mansion, # 43 Sgt Esquerra St., Quezon City
Phone: (02) 413.66.25 / (082) 228.60.20 / able.ad.agency@gmail.com
Or submit to security guard of Port Royal Building, Rada St., Makati City

---

CREW REQUIREMENTS UNTIL JUNE 2007 TO MAN ANOTHER 70 VESSELS

Our Principal *Marlow Navigation* is urgently needing the following positions for our modern Container vessels and bulk carriers:

Master	from US$5,115. –	6 mos. Contract
Chief Mate	from US$3,795. –	8 mos. Contract
2nd Mate	from US$2,640. –	10 mos. Contract
3rd Mate	from US$1,584. – to US$1,824. –	10 mos. Contract
Chief Engr	from US$4,950. –	6 mos. Contract
2nd Engr	from US$3,795. –	8 mos. Contract
3rd Engr	from US$2,640. –	10 mos. Contract
Electrician	from US$3,019. –	10 mos. Contract
C/Cook	from US$1,378. – to US$1,486. –	10 mos. Contract
Ck/B (AB/Ck)	from US$1,067. –	10 mos. Contract
Bosun/Fitter	from US$1,105. – to US$1,213. –	10 mos. Contract
K/AB	from US$1,004. –	10 mos. Contract
AB/Oiler	from US$903. –	10 mos. Contract
OS/Wiper	from US$680. –	10 mos. Contract

CHEMICAL TANKER
(With Chemical Tanker Experience)

Master	US$6,500. –	Rejoining Bonus US$300/mo.
C/Off	US$4,299. –	Rejoining Bonus US$300/mo.
C/Eng	US$6,200. –	Rejoining Bonus US$300/mo.
2/Eng	US$4,200. –	Rejoining Bonus US$300/mo.

Plus Seniority Bonus
GERMAN TANKER

2/Off	US$2,970. –
2/Eng	US$5,780. –

Apply now and build your career with us:

Crewserve, Inc.
Rm. 401 LBH Bldg.,
1431 A. Mabini St.,
Ermita, Manila
e-mail: recruitment@crewserve.com.ph
POEA Lic. 250-SB-061604-R

Galant Maritime Services, Inc.
1101 Ermita Center Building
1350 Roxas Boulevard,
Ermita, Manila
PIC: C/M Norman Miranda
PIC: C/M Chito Mendoza
e-mail: recruitment_galant@marlow.com.ph
Tel. # 525-6092; 526-6888 loc 115
POEA Lic. 108-SB-091603-R

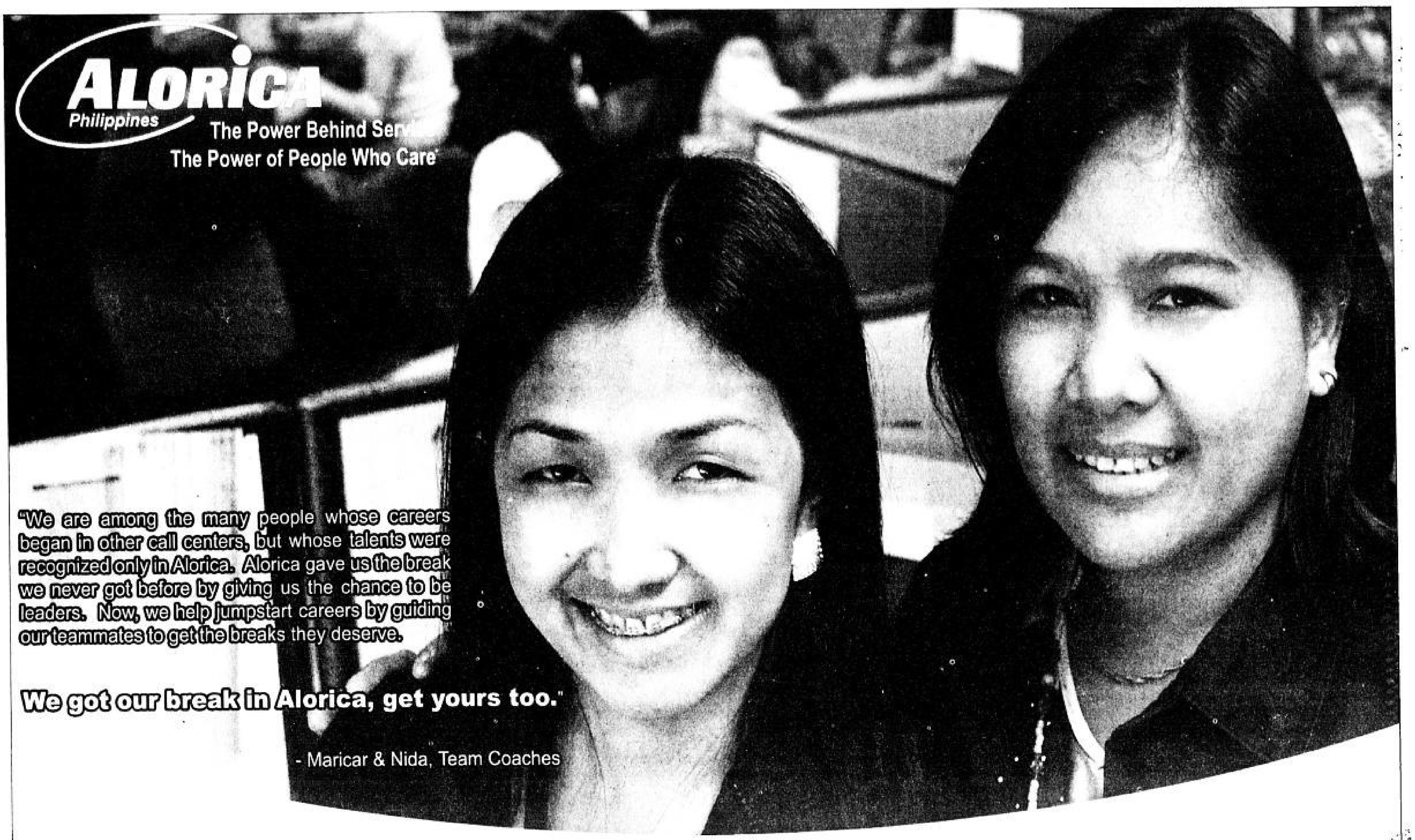
WANTED IMMEDIATELY

EQUIPMENT MANAGER

BSME graduate, not more than 50 years old, at least 10 years work experience in heavy equipment maintenance of which the last 3 years must be as Equipment Manager or its equivalent. Well organized & must be computer literate.

Send resumé with credentials and picture to:

Box # MN-003-08
CLASSIFIEDS SECTION
Philippine Daily Inquirer Building
1098 Chino Roces Avenue cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts., Makati City



"We are among the many people whose careers began in other call centers, but whose talents were recognized only in Alorica. Alorica gave us the break we never got before by giving us the chance to be leaders. Now, we help jumpstart careers by guiding our teammates to get the breaks they deserve.

We got our break in Alorica, get yours too."

- Maricar & Nida, Team Coaches

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Call Center Operations

Technical Support Representatives

Customer Interaction Specialists

Qualifications:
College graduate or college level
Good communication skills
Willing to work flexible hours
Patient, team player, and coachable

Information Communication and Technology Dept.

Technical Support Engineers

Knowledgable in PC troubleshooting and Windows Operating System

Network Engineers

Network Administrator

4+ years of network and systems administration in the following OS and platforms: Windows Server 2000/2003, Windows Terminal Services, Active Directory, Red Hat Linux.

Specific experience with some or all of the following technology sets: Cisco Router, Sonicwall Firewall, LAN/WAN Environment, VoIP Technology

OTHER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AVAILABLE

If interested, bring your resume with a 2x2 ID picture to the following addresses:

33rd floor Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
F. Ortigas, Jr. Ave. (formerly Emerald Ave.),
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

29th floor IBM Plaza Building,
Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City

Mondays - Saturdays
from 9 am onwards
or e-mail to
recruitment@manila.alorica.net
or call the Recruitment Hotline:
914-3700 local 7515

BERGMANN

Bergmann Hair Systems is a diversified hair company engaged in the processing and preparation of human hair, manufacturing of synthetic fibers, men and ladies hair and related accessories. Currently the leader in the hair market in Europe, it is continuously building its strength by adopting new technologies and latest fashion trends.

Its existence of over 130 years has increased the company's size and is now considerably one of the most significant hair and beauty companies in the world hair market. The company's technological breakthrough has allowed Bergmann to develop hair pieces, hair extensions, as well as hair accessories for men and women based on the latest trends, technique and high-class materials.

Bergmann Hair Inc. is in need of

SALES CONSULTANT

- Female, not more than 30 yrs. old.
- Graduate of any BS degree course
- At least two (2) years selling and marketing experience
- Good selling, interpersonal and communication skills
- Goal driven and a team player
- Fast learner, hardworking and pleasing personality

HAIR TECHNICIAN

- Female, Single not more than 30 yrs. old.
- With at least two (2) years salon experience
- At least 5'4" in height
- Good communication skills is an advantage
- Fast learner, hardworking and pleasing personality

Applicants may submit their resume with a recent 2x2 photo not later than February 21. 2007 to address below:

Unit 1410 Jollibee Plaza, F. Ortigas Jr. Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Email: bergmann@pldtdsl.net
For inquiries, please call 633.9173/633.8991

WANTED IMMEDIATELY!

A newly organized multi-million peso company affiliated with **Visonic Ltd. of Tel Aviv, Israel** (listed in the London Stocks Exchange) is in need of dynamic individuals for the following job positions:

Position I

CREDIT VERIFIER

- Graduate of a business course from a reputable school or university.
- Male, 25 years old and above.
- Sharp, keen, discrete, diligent, trustworthy, loyal and has the initiative.
- With good communication skills.
- Experience in credit verification is an advantage.
- With Professional Driver's License
- Willing to travel and work long hours.

Position II

FIELD TECHNICIAN

- Graduate of a EE, ECE, IT or any computer or electronic related course.
- Male, 25 years old and above.
- Experience in electrical wiring or installation is an advantage.
- Hardworking, precise, diligent, trustworthy and has the initiative
- With good communication skills.
- With Professional Driver's License
- Willing to travel and work long hours

Apply now at

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE CENTRE

Suite 807, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor Tindalo St., Makati City (beside Makati Post Office)
Please come in your proper business attire and bring 2 passport-sized pictures, resumé, clipping of this ad and 2 valid IDs on February 19, 20 & 21, 2007 (Monday to Friday) from 1:00 – 4:00pm.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A Trading Company is in need of an

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- At least 25-30 years old
- BSC Accounting Graduate
- With experience in General Accounting and treasury function
- Computer literate
- Can work under pressure with minimal supervision

Interested applicants are invited to hand carry their application letter (with colorred photo), bio-data and transcript of records to:

INTERNATIONAL HEAVY EQUIPMENT CORPORATION
155 Panay Avenue, South Triangle, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 929-3547 to 49
Email: info@ihec.com.ph

Landscape Architect Senior Autocad Draftsman Vacancy in Shanghai

A Shanghai based Landscape Design Consultancy Firm is seeking experienced & motivated Architects to join our team.

Applicants for both positions must have 6-8 years related work experience in Architecture / Landscape Architecture Firms.

All applicants must have strong foundation in using the Autocad, 3D Max, Sketch up, Photoshop & related Architecture softwares as a drafting & presentation tool.

Our firm will be conducting a walk-in interview at **BSA Tower, 108 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, Philippine Tel +632-887-0147, Fax +632-887-05133.**

Contact person : Mike Chua +86-1391-6218-436 (China Mobile)

Qualified applicants, please email resume to mike@unitedpremas.com & mikemc@singnet.com.sg

Date of interview : 23 Feb, 24 Feb, 26 Feb & 27 Feb (9am-12noon & 1pm-4pm)

Get a JOB in 12 DAYS!

Enroll in the most affordable, TESDA-accredited, computer-assisted and the BEST

Call Center Training Program

Be a CALL CENTER AGENT in ONLY 12 DAYS! Gain CONFIDENCE to pass the interviews!
Pass the CALL SIMULATION TEST! Improve your ACCENT, SPEAKING, LISTENING SKILLS & GRAMMAR!

P500*

DOWNPAYMENT ACCEPTED!
INTENSIVE 60 HOURS
With CALL CENTER LABORATORY
FREE! Audio CD & Trainee's Kit
ENROLL NOW!
Registration Deadline FEB.22* only

2005 and 2006 Most Outstanding Call Center Training Provider

100% GUARANTEED JOB
Assistance to our Call Center Partners
One Global ICT People iConnect PacificHub

Join our graduates working in CONVERGYS, SYKES, PEOPLE SUPPORT, CLIENT LOGIC, eTELECARE, ePLDT, AMBERGRIS, INFOXXX, RMH, VISION-X, QINTERACTION, EPIXTAR, IBM, HSBC, DELL, DAKSH and more!!!

Newfield International "Helping people get call center jobs"

CALL US NOW!!! Mondays to Saturdays 9am - 6:30pm All slots first come first served! Morning, Afternoon, Evening & Weekend Classes Offered

840-3812 / 892-7717
MAKATI Unit 411 La Fuerza Plaza I 2241 Don Chino Roces Ave. (near Mantrade/Magallanes-MRT Station)

448-5024 / 411-2944
QUEZON CITY Unit 511 President Tower 81 Timog Ave. (near GMA/EDSA/Kamuning-MRT Station)

www.newfieldtraining.com

Batiano Sales & Marketing Corp.,

a direct importer and distributor of electronic consumer product is in immediate need of the ff: **Sales Engineers**, **Channel Sales Representatives**, **Bookkeeper/Sales Assistant** and **Independent Sales Agents/Dealers**. Candidates for Sales Engineers and Channel Sales Representative must be Engineering graduate preferably with sales experience. Attractive compensation package will be offered to selected candidates. Please submit your applications/resumé to: Email: info@airpass.com.ph, Tele/Fax: (02) 8099462, Text/Call: 09106963829/ 09106931709.

Mighty Corporation

We are a manufacturing company employing more than 1,000 employees nationwide with head office in Makati and plant in Malolos, Bulacan.

HR SUPERVISORS

With at least 3 years' HR specialization in either training or salary & benefits administration; with supervisory experience; not over 32 years old and must be graduates of AB/BS Psychology or Behavioral Science courses; highly proficient in oral & written English; adaptable and can relate effectively with people.

ASSISTANT CASHIERING SUPERVISOR

Female graduate of Accounting, not more than 35 years old; With at least 2 years' experience in supervising cashiering functions in a manufacturing environment.

TREASURY/CASHIERING ASSISTANTS

Accounting graduates; female, not more than 30 years old; with at least 2 years' treasury or cashiering experience; organized and attentive to details.

INTERNAL AUDIT ASSISTANTS

Candidates must be male; CPA; not over 30 years old; with at least 1 year of experience in field audit.

HR ASSISTANTS (for Makati, Bulacan, Cebu & Isabela)

Graduate of Psychology; male or female; not over 30 years old; ideally with experience in HR functions but open to fresh graduates; with effective communications skills and positive disposition; responsible and can work independently.

CREDIT & COLLECTION ASSISTANTS

Candidates must be graduates of BS Accountancy; preferably CPA; male and not more than 30 years old; with at least 2 years of related experience.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS (for Makati, Bulacan, Cebu & Isabela)

Male/Female, not over 25 years old; Accounting graduates; computer literate; with at least 1 year of experience in accounting functions.

Interested applicants are requested to e-mail resumé to:

tscabantog@mightycorp.com.ph

ARCHWAY
INTERNATIONAL & MARKETING SERVICES, INC.

Housing Compound / Building Admin. Supervisor REF-AIC 03	Preferably with 10 years experience in maintenance of a housing compound or building, housing workers of the company. Facilitating house rules, food & etc.
Food Chain Service Crew REF-MCD 01	Male only with related experience, 21-29 years old.
HR Assistant REF-AIC 02	Male only with minimum of 5 years experience in relevant field. Applicant must have MBA degree.
Trailer/Truck Driver REF-OOP 01	Professional License with restriction code of 8. Not more than 45 years old

3/F SKK Building 63-65 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. F.B. Harrison, Pasay City
Telephone No.: (02) 551-1035 to 37 E-mail to: hr@archwayintl.com.ph
Kindly bring pertinent papers in a long brown envelope. Applicants with VALID PASSPORT are priorities
POEA License: 134-LB-122706-PL
NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY
BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS!!!

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

NOW HiRiNG! Collection Agents

- Collection Supervisors
- Team Leaders
- Inbound and Outbound CSRs
- QA Manager

8570305

email resumés to:
yogomanila@ictgroup.com
glen.odom@ictgroup.com

ICT GROUP

Be a YoGO

makati
19th Floor Tower 2, RCBC Plaza,
6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City
Full-time
Inbound and Outbound CSRs

ortigas
14th Floor Unionbank Plaza
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Full-time
Inbound and Outbound CSRs

marikina
Ground Floor, ICT Bldg 1,
Riverbanks Center, Marikina
Full-time/Part-time
Inbound and Outbound CSRs
and Full-time Data Encoders

For walk-in applicants, please bring your SSS number, TIN number and NBI clearance.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

- Ready to lead a vibrant group of HR practitioners
- Dynamic, Progressive, Decisive
- A keen eye for details
- Experienced in major areas of Human Resource
- Know how in administrative functions

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- Focused, Detailed
- Good supervisory skills
- Good time management
- Experienced in various Administrative functions

If you have what it takes to lead a vibrant group of individuals then this is the chance for you. Take part in this once in a lifetime opportunity to join a pillar of industry.

Send your personal information sheet today:

LAMOIYAN CORPORATION
Km. 15 West Service Road
South Superhighway
Parañaque City 1500

LAMOIYAN CORPORATION is in the business of bringing quality personal and household care products to Filipino homes for the past twenty years.

HANDS ON MANILA FOUNDATION INC

Resource Mobilization Manager

Job Description

The Resource Mobilization Manager of Hands On Manila will be in charge of all fundraising and resource generation functions as designed and planned by the Board's Fundraising Committee. Supervised by the Executive Director, the Resource Mobilization Manager will be responsible for the implementation of fundraising activities including, but not limited to the following:

Corporate Partnerships

Prepare corporate presentations
Coordinate and present fundraising projects to corporations
Liaise with and maintain corporate relationships
Design corporate volunteer programs
Assist in marketing holiday corporate give-aways for fundraising

Institutional Fundraising

Develop and prepare grant proposals
Identify and explore available grants from funding institutions
Conceptualize and organize fundraising events
Assist in the design, production and sales of HOM merchandise for fundraising

Qualifications:

1. Preferably with a BS in Marketing or Business Administration with 5-8 years of work experience
2. Familiarity with developmental work
3. Very good writing skills, preferably in preparing grant proposals
4. Must possess very good communication and presentation skills
5. Organizational skills necessary to address the corporate partners' requirements
6. Team worker, flexible and with practical problem solving ability
7. Very good in time management

Applicants must submit an application letter addressed to the Executive Director with a 2x2 photo and comprehensive resume on or before February 28, 2007. You may send via email to jobs@handsonmanila.org; fax to 843-7044 or send to LP 10 Medical Plaza Building, Amorsolo corner Dela Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

DIAMEDIX TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

URGENT HIRING!

Executive Assistant
HR Assistant

- Administrative and HR responsibilities for both positions
- office located in Makati City
- Qualifications. College Graduate, good communication, organized and computer literate, 21-35 years old

E-mail resume to
hr@diamedix.com.ph
or call us at 809-4956 NOW

JR. ARCHITECT CUM INT. DESIGNER/DRAFTSMAN

MALE, SINGLE, PROFICIENT IN CAD & 3D, MANUAL PERSPECTIVE DWGS & SKETCHES, KNOWS HOW TO DRIVE.

MRQS ATELIER
7/F ELECTRA HOUSE
BLDG. ESTEBAN ST.
LEGASPI VILLAGE,
MAKATI CITY

JOB COMPACT

Reach more qualified applicants. Advertise in JobMarket Compact

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514

Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon

TELEDEVELOPMENT SERVICES INC. PARTNERS WITH PDI

TeleDevelopment Services, Inc. the leading Call Center and BPO support services company, partners with Philippine Daily Inquirer, the most widely read and circulated newspaper, to stage the first and biggest Call Center Training Convention on February 21 and 22, 2007 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel. Shown from left are TDS Senior Training Manager Bambi Del Mundo, Asst. Training Manager Tracy Aquino, PDI Marketing Officer Mundi Ocampo, PDI Classified Ads Sales Manager Lourdes Diaz, PDI Classified Ads AVP Jesse Francis Rebustillo, TDS Training Director Ofel M. Orcales, TDS Finance and Admin Head Judy B. Whisenhunt, and TDS Training Consultant Janet Jodloman.

FEMALE JUNIOR AUDITOR

not more than 25 years old, Single, computer literate, BS Accountancy graduate preferably with audit experience.

Apply at: 507 Landsdale Tower
86 Mo. Ignacia Ave., Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 371-1351/371-1304
Ask for **Jane** or **DJ**
Email: aj_jimenez100@yahoo.com

3rd Mate Marine Engineer

- Graduate from nautical schools
- 5 years exp. as Marine Engineer/Ship Supervisor
- Willing to work anywhere in the Phils.
- 40 years old and above
- Complete Certification

Please apply with resumé and complete certification to:

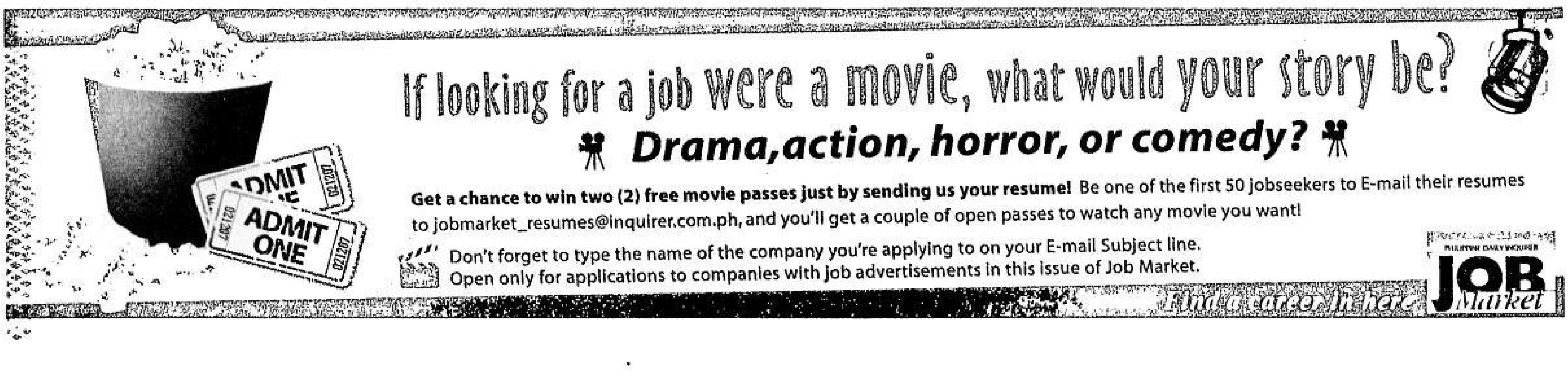
Information Technology Customer Care, Inc.
73 Rose Bldg., 3rd Flr. West Avenue, Quezon City
from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
look for Ms. Michelle Godoy
414-4220 / 376-4534

A GARMENT MANUFACTURING COMPANY IS IN NEED OF

PRODUCTION MERCHANDISER

FEMALE, 25-35 YRS. OLD
WITH AT LEAST 2-3 YRS. EXPERIENCE
COMPUTER LITERATE
CAN HANDLE PRESSURE

PLS FAX YOUR RESUME AT: 937-4508
OR EMAIL AT: cychristrading@yahoo.com



If looking for a job were a movie, what would your story be?

Drama, action, horror, or comedy?

Get a chance to win two (2) free movie passes just by sending us your resume! Be one of the first 50 jobseekers to E-mail their resumes to jobmarket_resumes@inquirer.com.ph, and you'll get a couple of open passes to watch any movie you want!

Don't forget to type the name of the company you're applying to on your E-mail Subject line.
Open only for applications to companies with job advertisements in this issue of Job Market.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

FEBRUARY 18, 2007

1

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

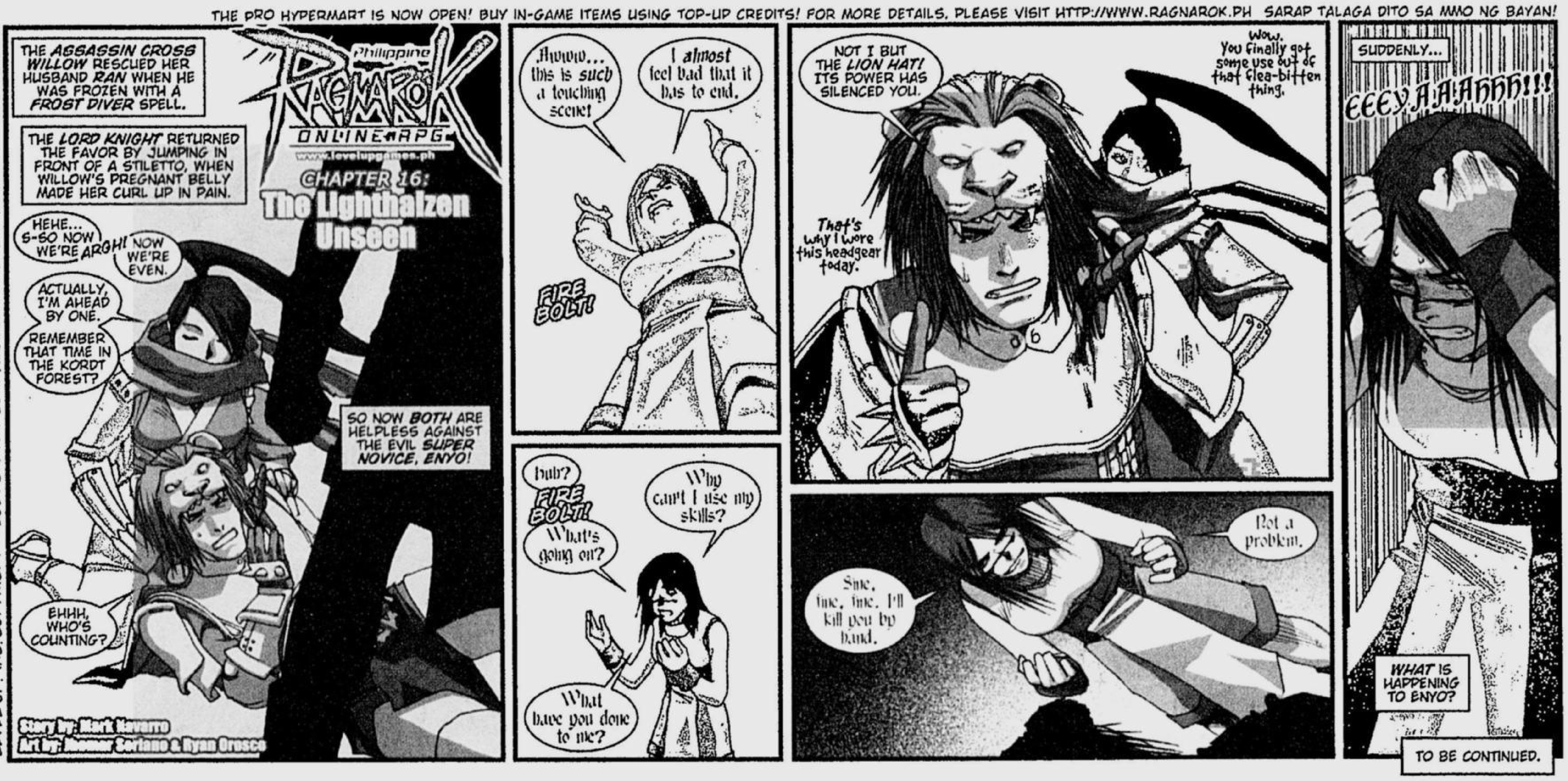
sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

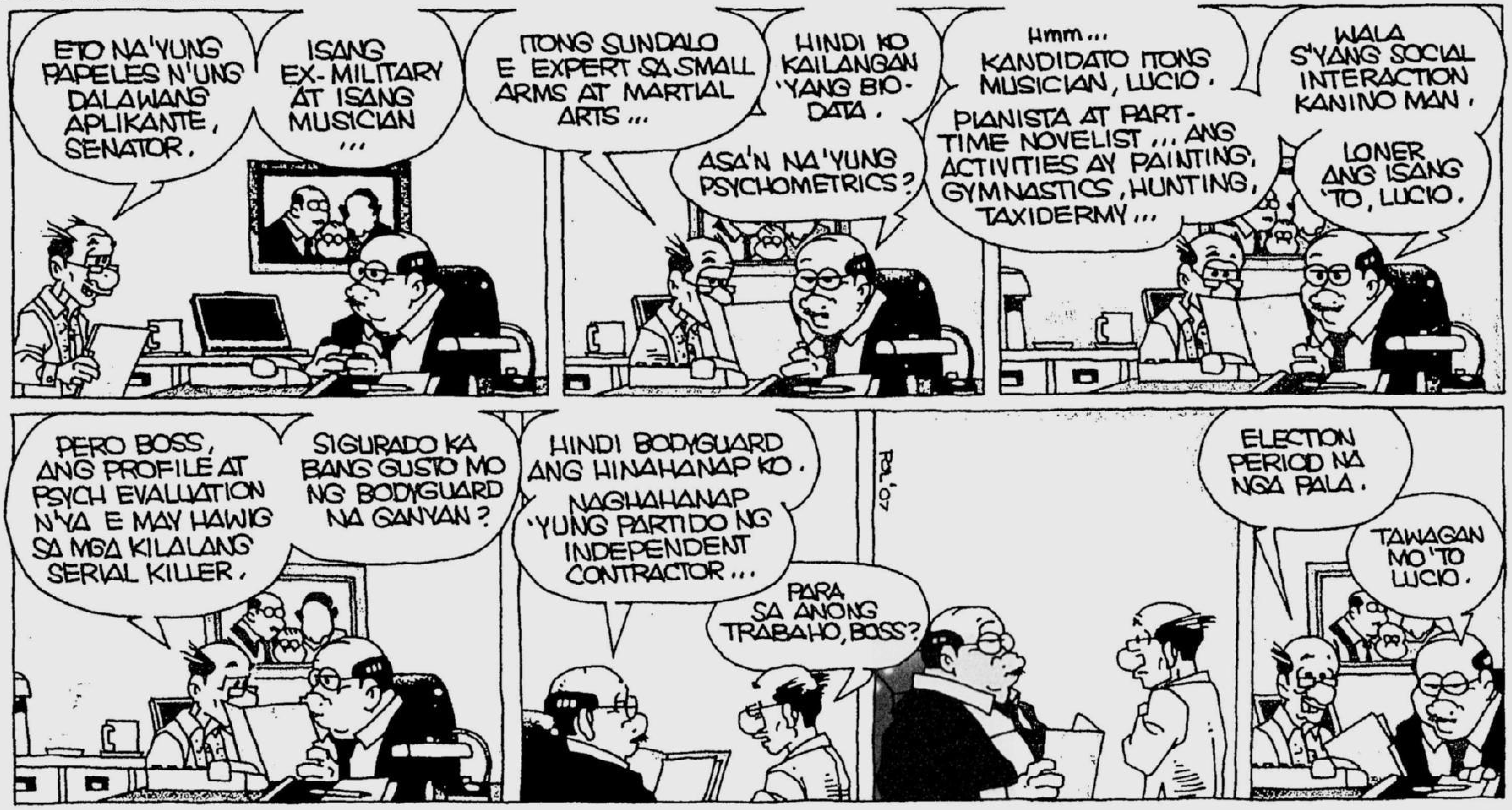
THE PRO HYPERMART IS NOW OPEN! BUY IN-GAME ITEMS USING TOP-UP CREDITS! FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH SARAP TALAGA DITO SA MMO NG BAYAN!

LEVEL UP! INC. COPYRIGHT © 2007 GRAVITY CORP. and LEE MYOUNGJIN. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.


THE *ASSASSIN CROSS WILLOW* RESCUED HER HUSBAND *RAN* WHEN HE WAS FROZEN WITH A *FROST DIVER* SPELL.
THE *LORD KNIGHT* RETURNED THE FAVOR BY JUMPING IN FRONT OF A STILETTO, WHEN WILLOW'S PREGNANT BELLY MADE HER CURL UP IN PAIN.
Philippine Ragnarok Online RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
CHAPTER 16: The Lighthalzen Unseen
HEHE... S-SO NOW WE'RE *ARGH!*
NOW WE'RE EVEN.
ACTUALLY, I'M AHEAD BY ONE.
REMEMBER THAT TIME IN THE KORDT FOREST?
SO NOW *BOTH* ARE HELPLESS AGAINST THE EVIL *SUPER NOVICE, ENYO!*
EHHH, WHO'S COUNTING?
Story by: Mark Navarro
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Ryan Orosco
Awww... this is *such* a touching scene!
I *almost* feel bad that it has to end.
FIRE BOLT!
huh?
FIRE BOLT!
What's going on?
Why can't I use my skills?
What have you done to me?
NOT I BUT THE *LION HAT!* ITS POWER HAS SILENCED YOU.
Wow. You finally got some use out of that flea-bitten thing.
That's why I wore this headgear today.
Fine, fine, fine. I'll kill you by hand.
Not a problem.
SUDDENLY...
EEEYAAAHHH!!!
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ENYO?
TO BE CONTINUED.

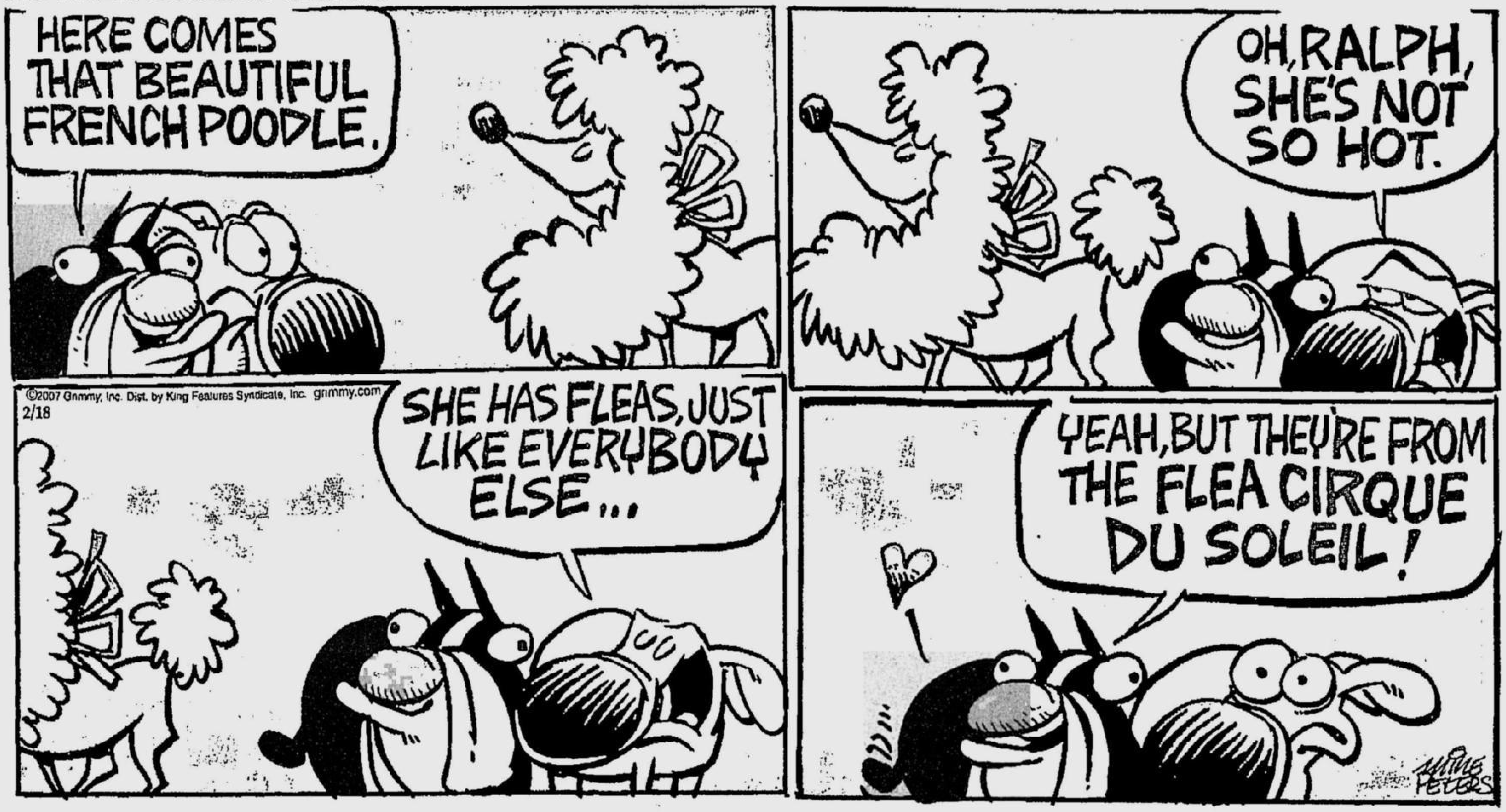
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


ETO NA'YUNG PAPELES N'UNG DALAWANG APLIKANTE, SENATOR.
ISANG EX-MILITARY AT ISANG MUSICIAN ...
ITONG SUNDALO E EXPERT SA SMALL ARMS AT MARTIAL ARTS ...
HINDI KO KAILANGAN 'YANG BIO-DATA.
ASA'N NA'YUNG PSYCHOMETRICS?
Hmm...
KANDIDATO ITONG MUSICIAN, LUCIO.
PIANISTA AT PART-TIME NOVELIST ... ANG ACTIVITIES AY PAINTING, GYMNASTICS, HUNTING, TAXIDERMY ...
WALA S'YANG SOCIAL INTERACTION KANINO MAN.
LONER ANG ISANG 'TO, LUCIO.
PERO BOSS, ANG PROFILE AT PSYCH EVALUATION N'YA E MAY HAWIG SA MGA KILALANG SERIAL KILLER.
SIGURADO KA BANG GUSTO MO NG BODYGUARD NA GANYAN?
HINDI BODYGUARD ANG HINAHANAP KO.
NAGHAHANAP 'YUNG PARTIDO NG INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR ...
PARA SA ANONG TRABAHO, BOSS?
POL '07
ELECTION PERIOD NA NGA PALA.
TAWAGAN MO 'TO LUCIO.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

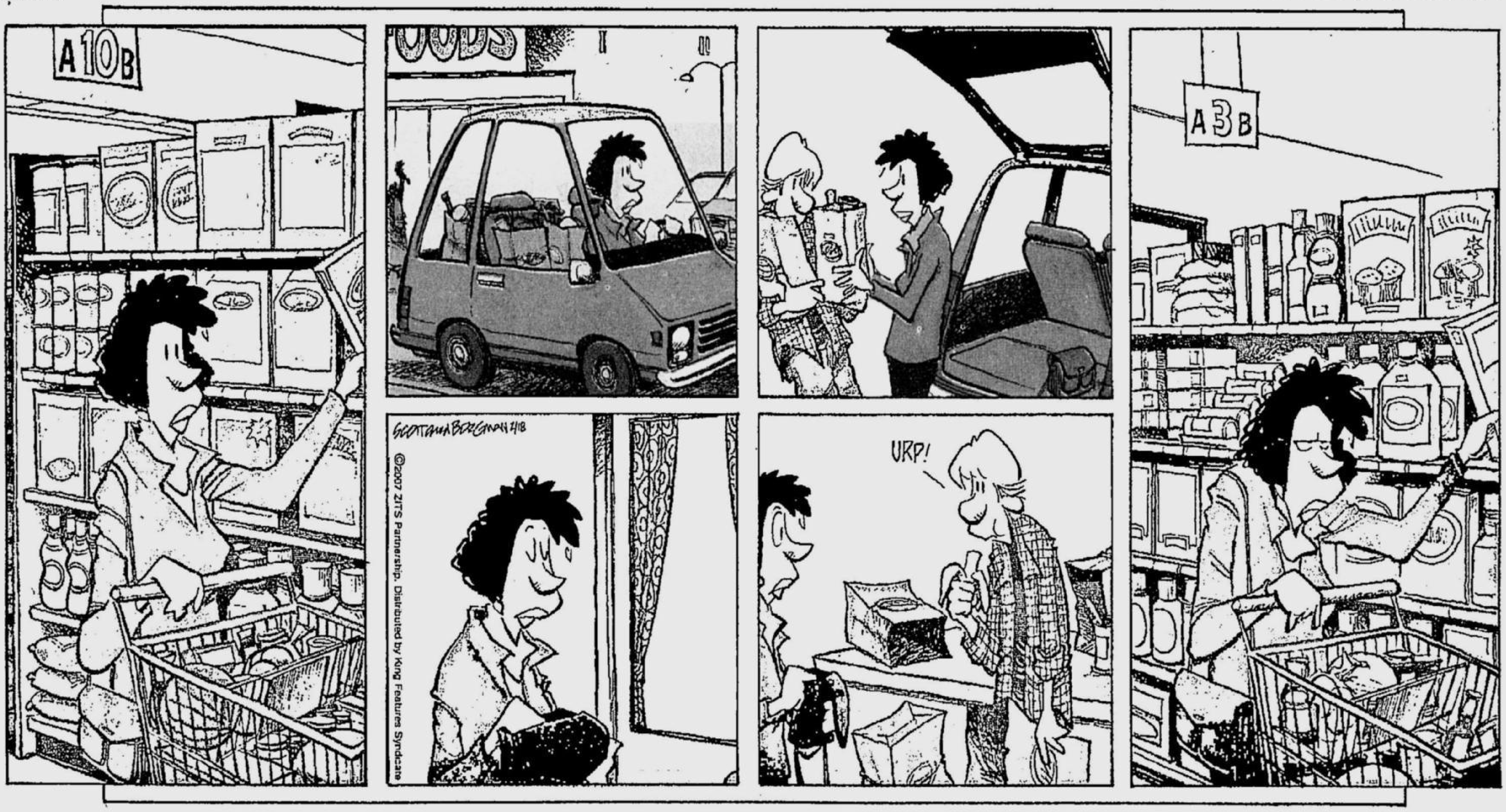
BY MIKE PETERS


HERE COMES THAT BEAUTIFUL FRENCH POODLE.
OH, RALPH, SHE'S NOT SO HOT.
SHE HAS FLEAS, JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE...
YEAH, BUT THEY'RE FROM THE FLEA CIRQUE DU SOLEIL!
MIKE PETERS

©2007 Grimmy, Inc. Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc. grimmy.com
2/18

ZITS

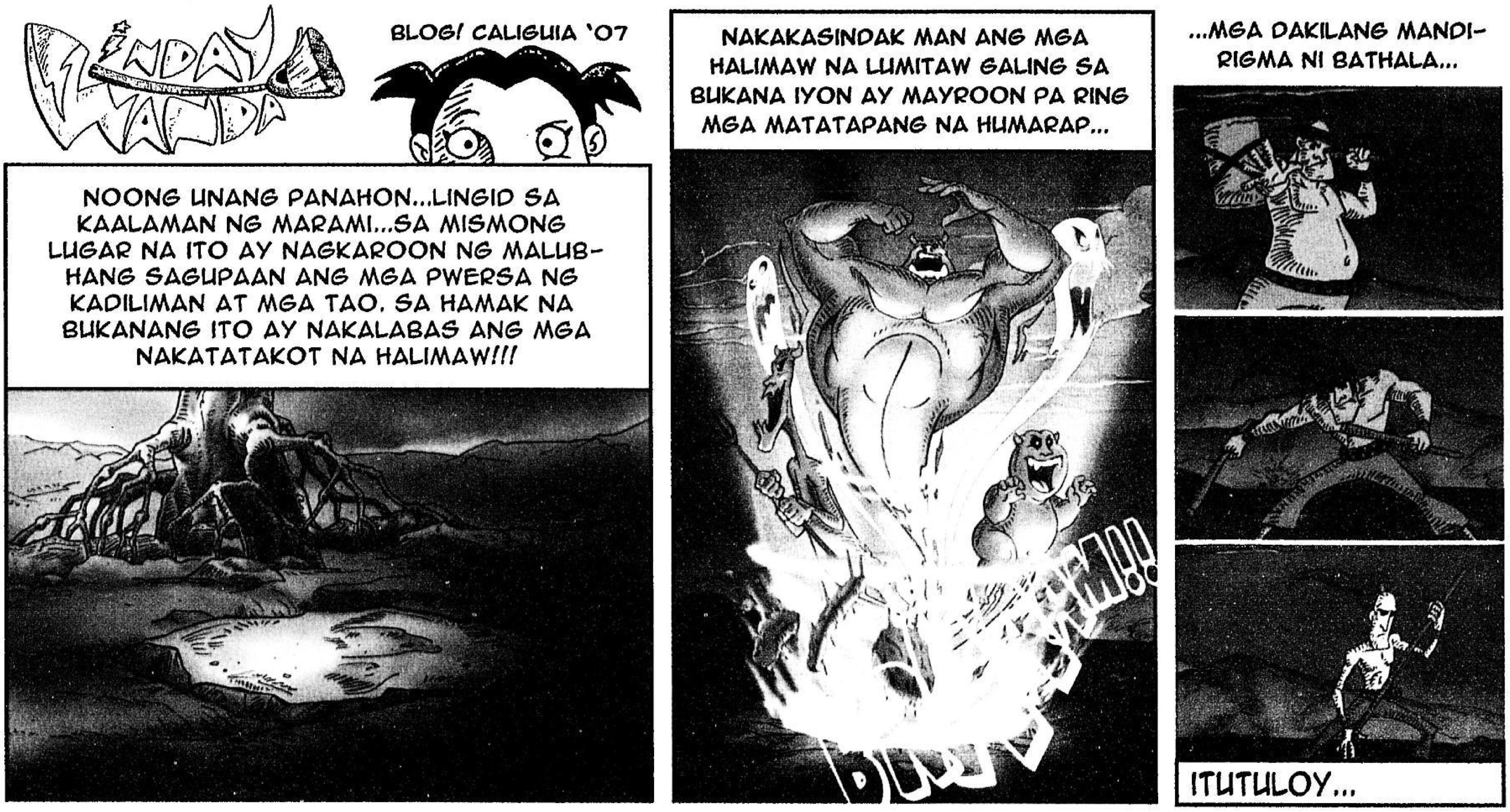
BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


A10B
OODS
A3B
URP!
SCOTTandBORGMAN 2/18

©2007 ZITS Partnership. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

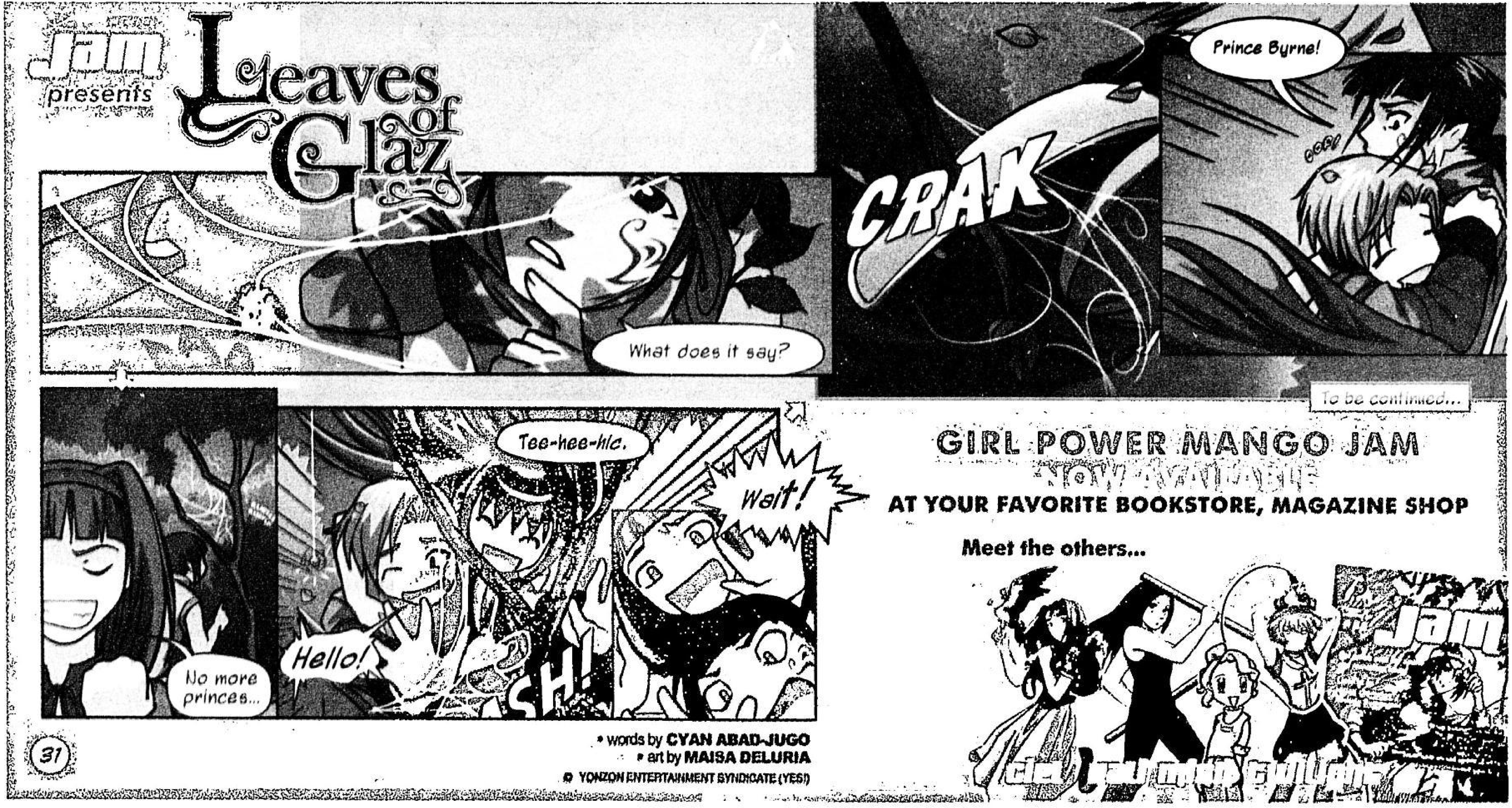
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


INDAY WANDA
BLOG! CALIGUIA '07
NOONG UNANG PANAHON...LINGID SA KAALAMAN NG MARAMI...SA MISMONG LUGAR NA ITO AY NAGKAROON NG MALUBHANG SAGUPAAN ANG MGA PWERSA NG KADILIMAN AT MGA TAO. SA HAMAK NA BUKANANG ITO AY NAKALABAS ANG MGA NAKATATAKOT NA HALIMAW!!!
NAKAKASINDAK MAN ANG MGA HALIMAW NA LUMITAW GALING SA BUKANA IYON AY MAYROON PA RING MGA MATATAPANG NA HUMARAP...
...MGA DAKILANG MANDIRIGMA NI BATHALA...
ITUTULOY...

LEAVES OF GLAZ

BY MANGO COMICS

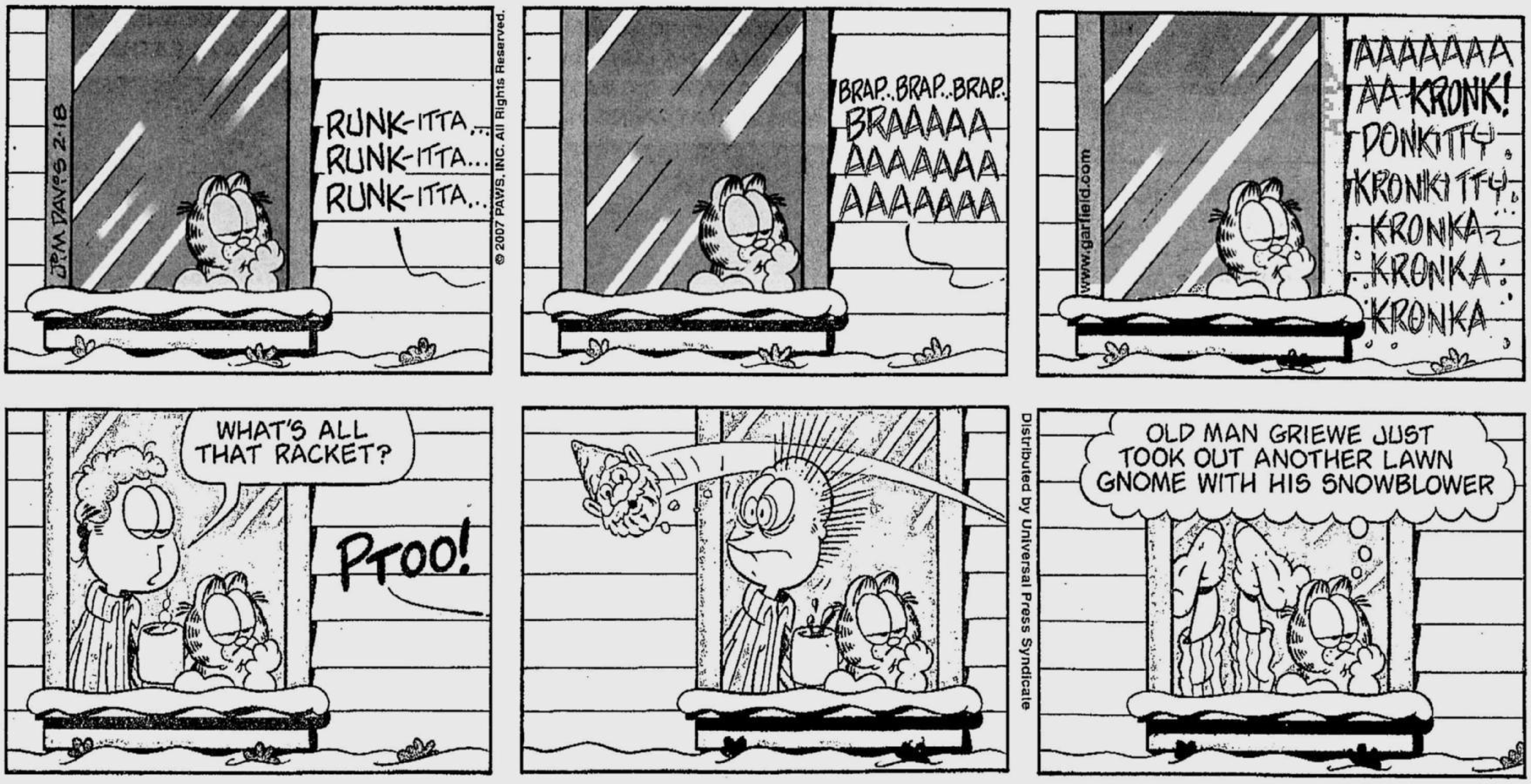

Jam presents
Leaves of Glaz
What does it say?
CRAK
Prince Byrne!
To be continued...
No more princes...
Hello!
Tee-hee-hic.
Wait!
SH!
31

• words by CYAN ABAD-JUGO
• art by MAISA DELURIA
© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES!)

GIRL POWER MANGO JAM
NOW AVAILABLE
AT YOUR FAVORITE BOOKSTORE, MAGAZINE SHOP
Meet the others...

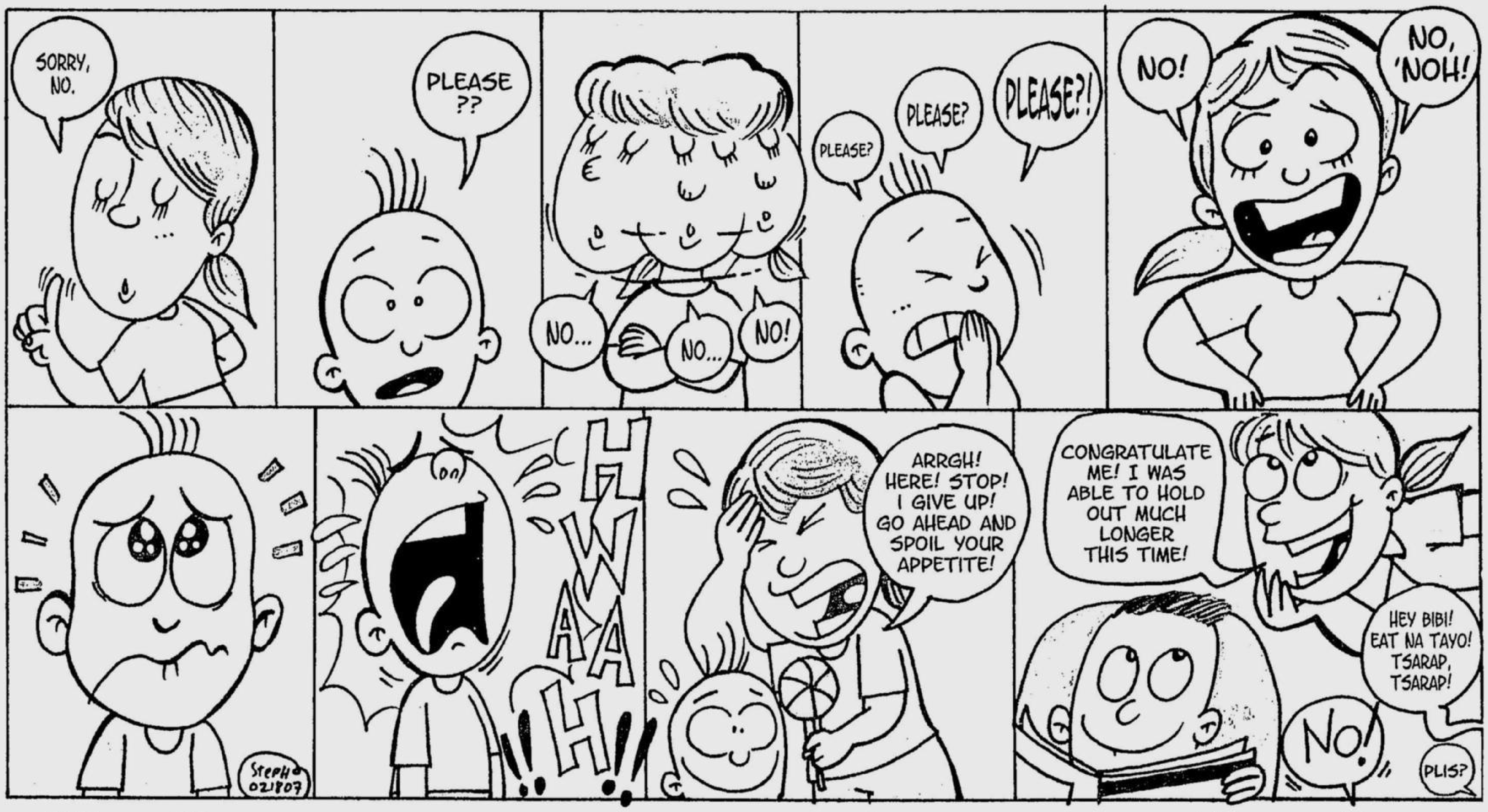
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


JPM DAVPS 2-18
RUNK-ITTA...
RUNK-ITTA...
RUNK-ITTA...
© 2007 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
BRAP..BRAP..BRAP..
BRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
www.garfield.com
AAAAAAAAA-KRONK!
DONKITTY
KRONKITTY
KRONKA
KRONKA
KRONKA
WHAT'S ALL THAT RACKET?
PTOO!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
OLD MAN GRIEWE JUST TOOK OUT ANOTHER LAWN GNOME WITH HIS SNOWBLOWER

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


SORRY, NO.
PLEASE ??
NO...
NO...
NO!
PLEASE?
PLEASE?
PLEASE?!
NO!
NO, 'NOH!
STEPH 021807
HWAAAH!!
ARRGH! HERE! STOP! I GIVE UP! GO AHEAD AND SPOIL YOUR APPETITE!
CONGRATULATE ME! I WAS ABLE TO HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER THIS TIME!
HEY BIBI! EAT NA TAYO! TSARAP, TSARAP!
NO!
PLIS?

*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*

February 18, 2007

Young Chinoys dream big in the Year of the Pig

How the next generation is tinkering with old traditions to give success a refreshing twist

plus

Hot young designer Debbie Co • Tshomlee Go kicks up a storm • Barbi Chan gets a makeover • Stephen Ku parties for a living • 12 dishes that bring good luck • Why Chinoys succeed in business • Inside a Chinese arranged marriage • and more

By Xin Mei

The 'Kai Xiao' Legacy

The traditional Chinese practice of arranged marriages has evolved into a workaday shadow of its formidable past

They met in the most "unlikely situation": Sari Ortiga and wife Nancy

IT takes four strong men to carry the bridal chair of the young maiden Mei Hua toward the big gate, home of her future husband. Her lady matchmaker walks directly behind her, protecting her like merchandise. Firecrackers signal the arrival of the bride. A five-piece orchestra has been hired. Mei Hua's cheeks, lips and nails are painted a crimson red. Her long hair is tied into a bun, decorated with gold pins and crowned with a baby pearl tortoise shell comb. Her thick eyebrows are threaded skillfully into a thin line so that her future husband may appreciate beauty in a smooth brow. She sits with her back straight inside the bridal sedan chair, with her pelvis and hips balanced between the bamboo poles, taking enough care not to crease her iridescent bridal dress that changes color from scarlet to garnet. Her tiny feet are hidden away from male eyes under a long skirt.

She waits for the appropriate time, given by her fortune-teller, when she is invited to step out of the fabric-covered bridal chair by her *kai xiao lang* (matchmaker in the Amoy language). She has always prayed to her ancestors for this day. "Please find me a good husband, one who is handsome and kind."

The matchmaker presents Mei Hua to the groom, with her face all covered up with a red scarf. The bride is given one end of a red ribbon while the groom holds on to the other end. The groom tries to peek through the red scarf, probably praying that his bride be beautiful and kind. He cannot see through the red scarf. Their first encounter will be the sound of each other's voice as both bride and groom kowtow to the parents and ancestors of the groom. After the marriage ceremony, Mei Hua and her groom leave the party to enter their bridal quarters decorated with fulsome Chinese greetings of double happiness. Their fate is now sealed. Her happiness now depends on the family she marries into, while his future depends on the bride his family chooses for him.

Traditionally, the person who helps facilitate marriage in any Chinese community is the matchmaker. She has always been part of the Chinese marriage custom in all sectors of society. In fact, most if not all Chinese love stories involve the use of a go-between, the woman matchmaker.

In old China, the patriarchal nature of Chinese families determined that a marriage was often a social and economic arrangement between the families of bride and groom and not a romantic union between two people. When a family's son was ready to be married, the family looked for a bride through a matchmaker. To begin the search, the matchmaker took the birth time and birth date of the male and tried to look for a bride candidate whose date and time of birth would be compatible with those of the male candidate. This information was given to a fortune teller who determines compatibility in marriage, fortune and maybe in love.

(continued on page 4)

marie france

y Perfected by
ASHAPE
hout The Suction

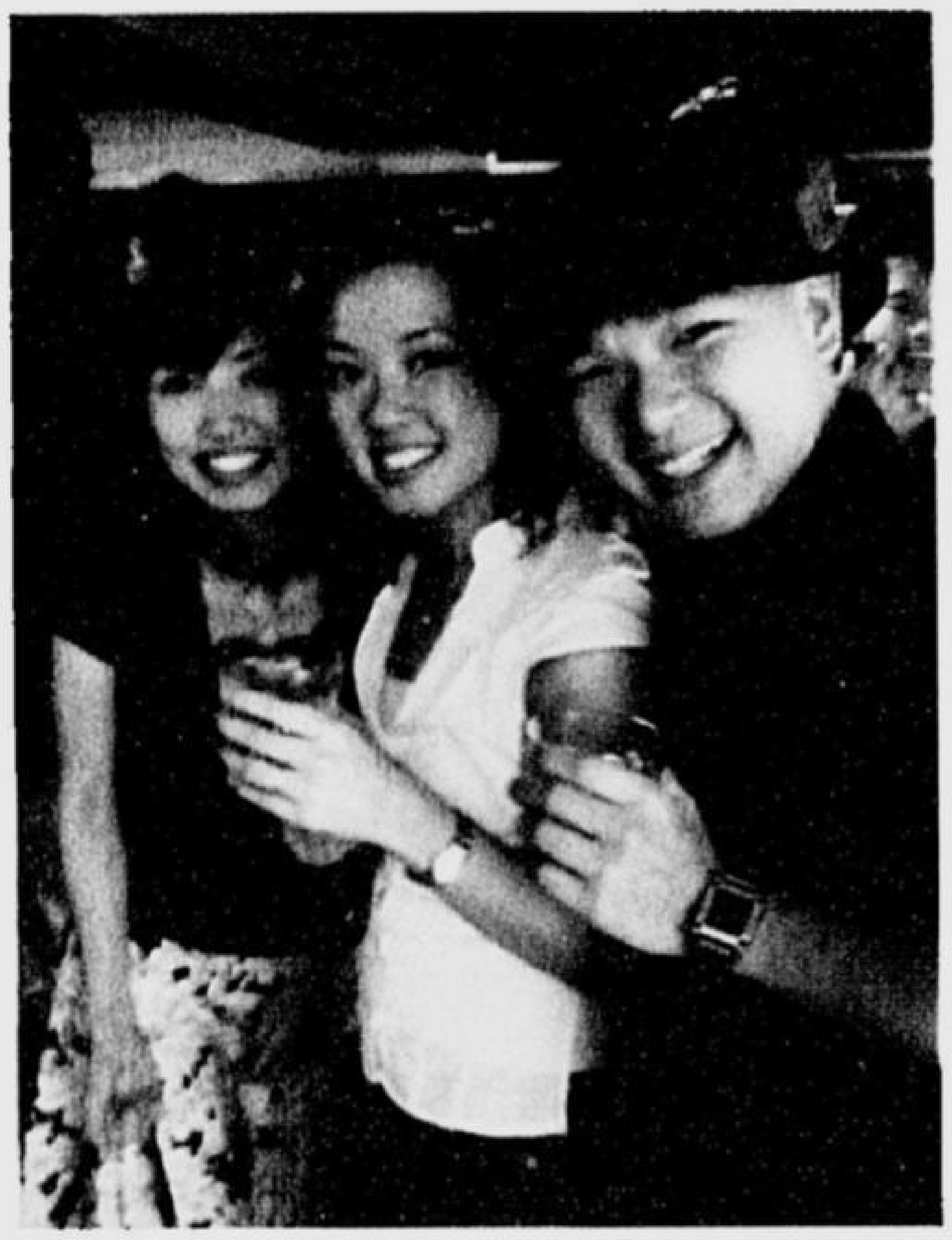
ier by ULTRASHAPE, Dawn can flaunt
y in a bikini just 9 months after giving
works by targeting the fat cells from
rom there, the fat is metabolized and
he body as energy. It gives the benefits
bsolutely no surgery, no risks and no

d with no surgical scars, Dawn now
sexy twenty-something woman. With
ontours of her figure was resculpted,
onfidence and a bare-able body.

ee consultation on this amazing new

BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA · TEL: 961-2981 CEBU · TEL: [illegible]3-7637 **894-BODY**

The 'Kai Xiao' Legacy (from page 2)



Innovating tradition: Antonio Ortiga (extreme right) of Social Cream

There was a Chinese saying that suggested both family gates had to match. This means both the groom and the bridal candidate must be of the same economic standing.

The matchmaker became a broker who facilitated an appropriate bridal fee called a *ping jin*. This was a "reservation" amount given to the bride's family by the groom's family. The amount of *ping jin*, usually in money or gold, offered to one's daughter was a symbol of family pride. In other words, in old China, it was customary for the candidate bride's family to bargain the amount of *ping jin* for their daughter's hand in marriage. They believed a compatible bride candidate would bring luck to the family through a marriage union and a healthy wife would bring in many grandchildren. All in all, the *kai xiao lang* arranged compatibility, the bargaining of *ping jin* and the match of family doors. For all these services, the matchmaker was given an amount of money, usually placed in a red envelope, after the wedding ceremony. From the late 1800s to about the 1920s, the first-generation overseas Chinese immigrants experienced living life as a split household family; the family wage earner, who could be a son or a husband, worked far away. Matchmaking became a necessary "facility" for young Chinese immigrants because they had to go back to China to marry a Chinese woman. Some overseas Chinese men who inquired about possible brides from Amoy, China, were sent pictures of eligible Chinese women by their families in China. This was the way they chose their brides.

Up until some decades ago, matchmaking was still a marriage custom within the Filipino-Chinese community. Bob Co, a successful third-generation Filipino-Chinese businessman in his fifties, recalls his trips home from the US while he was still working for the World Bank.

"Whenever my work brought me back to Asia, I devoted a three-day stopover in Manila before going back to the US," he says. "My mother arranged dates for me with local Chinese girls. It came to a point where my mother sent me pictures of local Chinese girls before I was scheduled to return home.

"For me, it was a convenient way of meeting local Filipino-Chinese girls because I believe that good girls stayed at home. It was customary then for Filipino-Chinese girls to work in the family business after college and help around the house. A go-between was a must when you wanted to meet these girls."

Sari Ortiga, a businessman and art collector, met his wife Nancy in the most unlikely *kai xiao* situation.

"During my time, which was in the '80s, whenever my friends mentioned the word *kai xiao*, it frightened me," says Ortiga "I shied away from it because I did not want to look desperate and I questioned the girl's inability to look for a date because I felt that pretty girls did not need to look for a date, '*di ba*?

"But I don't think I would have met Nancy without my father's help," he adds. "My father introduced us to each other," he says with a laugh. "We are three boys in the family. My father took care of a watch and jewelry store in Makati, and he knew most of the women who came in and out of the store. I think my father was always on the lookout for possible daughters-in-law for himself."

Matchmaking is one Chinese tradition that will never leave us because it is inherent in ways of being "Chinese." The important value of "face" is such that phrases like "face value" and "show face" are the hidden reasons why a go-between is so important in many social situations.

"When I was younger, I thought I could just approach any girl and ask for her telephone number. In fact, I found it difficult because the Filipino-Chinese society was very conservative. You could not just approach a Filipino-Chinese girl and ask for a date. You had to be introduced by someone," says Ortiga.

Today, the community has grown in numbers into the fourth or fifth generation. When Chinoy boys and even Chinay girls hear the word *kai xiao* from a parent or a friend, they try to maneuver their way out of the situation.

"The young generation should not be afraid of *kai xiao*. It's just another way of meeting people," says Ortiga.

To most young Filipino-Chinese urbanites, *kai xiao* might seem to be the last recourse for meeting a potential bride and groom because of the initial fear of being stereotyped as desperate and unpopular, along with horror stories about past *kai xiao* situations. They would rather meet people through their peers. They have this philosophy of "collect and then select." Some of the more "choosy" ones wait for the "fit."

"It's just like choosing a pair of gloves. They have to fit well. A big glove will surely fall off your hand and a smaller glove will definitely not work," said Christopher Kawsek, a fourth-generation Filipino-Chinese college senior. "I am not comfortable with the idea of parents conspiring to bring their children together, not when I'm a senior in college. I would maybe consider it a last-ditch effort."

Hollywood has taught romantics that love strikes when you least expect it.

From the ways of old China to the modern ways of the overseas Chinese, we can imagine matchmaking as evolving in countless ways. Today, anybody can be a matchmaker. He could be a friend, a parent, a member of the family or a distant relative and even a marketing event organizer.

The men would first insist, "show me

her picture" and women would ask questions like, "*mabait ba siya* (is he kind)?" To these questions, the matchmaker should prepare her sales pitch.

Perhaps the vision of young urban professional Antonio Ortiga, who organizes speed-dating parties for different cultural groups, has transformed something traditional into something more innovative.

"When my guy and girl friends ask me to *kai xiao* them to others I find it time-consuming for myself and my friends because it comes with a certain degree of risk for my reputation," he says. "There is this fear of introductions and getting stuck with an unwanted date. I decided to hit two birds with one stone by organizing Social Cream, an exclusive networking venture for meeting people of the opposite sex, highlighting the fact that Social Cream does not guarantee your next boyfriend or girlfriend but that it will expand your network."

Speed dating, coined from an English term, is *kai xiao* with efficiency. "One gets to meet eight or more people in one night versus just one person."

With today's postmodern terms like speed dating and networking used by young professionals, *kai xiao* has clearly become just an Amoy word that means more access to people for business and social contacts. •

Why Chinoys Succeed in Business

IT'S no accident that the richest people in the Philippines are Filipino-Chinese, with Sy, Gokongwei, Ty, Gotianun, Tan and Yuchengco being some of the names on the list.

And it's also no exaggeration to say that the Philippine economy is practically in their hands considering that they are present in almost all businesses, from the biggest manufacturing facilities to the smallest neighborhood hardware store.

So why are they so good at running and growing a business?

Here are some secrets to their success:

1. The Chinese are good in business because they are very industrious and frugal. Priority in spending is on basic necessities. They are ambitious and regard work as a way of life.—**Jerry Tiu**, *chair of Mega Publishing Group*

2. Filipino-Chinese businessmen are quick to spot opportunities and threats and are equally quick to deal with them —**Johnlu Koa**, *founder, French Baker Inc.*

3. The Chinese are thrifty, hardworking and focused. The concept of "*guanxi*" or connection/relationship, also works in any Chinese business society and is the backbone of many successful enterprises. Foresight and spunk also inspire the entrepreneurial spirit in every Chinese individual—**Willy Ocier**, *Belle Corp.*

4. The Chinese are good because they don't mind gaining a small profit as long as it is sustainable and there is volume.—**Pacita Uyboco Juan**, *Figaro Coffee Corp.*

5. My father always said that we should be persevering, frugal, hardworking and trustworthy. We were trained to faithfully pay what we owe to creditors or suppliers, follow whatever terms we commit to clients and uphold quality standards of goods.—**Steven Ching**, *owner of Robby Rabbit, first Filipino-created cartoon now being used abroad*

6. Ancient Chinese adage: "Knowledge is an inexhaustible mine." Chinese culture puts strong emphasis on education, quest for knowledge plus initiative for innovation.—**Jerry Angping**, *chair and CEO, Angping Securities Inc.*

7. The Chinese are good in business because they are taught since childhood to value hard work and money.—**Wilson Sy**, *fund manager Philequity*

Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Figure It Out

Jim Guiao Punzalan

1.5: Percentage of Filipino-Chinese out of total Philippine population

1.3 billion: Current population of China

9th century: Period when the Chinese first arrived in the Philippines

$4 billion: Net worth of Henry Sy, the wealthiest Filipino-Chinese businessman

1959, 1971, 1983, 1995: Recent Years of the Pig

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

her picture" and women would ask questions like, "*mabait ba siya* (is he kind)?" To these questions, the matchmaker should prepare her sales pitch.

Perhaps the vision of young urban professional Antonio Ortiga, who organizes speed-dating parties for different cultural groups, has transformed something traditional into something more innovative.

"When my guy and girl friends ask me to *kai xiao* them to others I find it time-consuming for myself and my friends because it comes with a certain degree of risk for my reputation," he says. "There is this fear of introductions and getting stuck with an unwanted date. I decided to hit two birds with one stone by organizing Social Cream, an exclusive networking venture for meeting people of the opposite sex, highlighting the fact that Social Cream does not guarantee your next boyfriend or girlfriend but that it will expand your network."

Speed dating, coined from an English term, is *kai xiao* with efficiency. "One gets to meet eight or more people in one night versus just one person."

With today's postmodern terms like speed dating and networking used by young professionals, *kai xiao* has clearly become just an Amoy word that means more access to people for business and social contacts. •

[illegible]

IT'S no accident that the richest people in the Philippines are Filipino-Chinese, with Sy, Gokongwei, Ty, Gotianun, Tan and Yuchengco being some of the names on the list.

And it's also no exaggeration to say that the Philippine economy is practically in their hands considering that they are present in almost all businesses, from the biggest manufacturing facilities to the smallest neighborhood hardware store.

So why are they so good at running and growing a business?

Here are some secrets to their success:

1. The Chinese are good in business because they are very industrious and frugal. Priority in spending is on basic necessities. They are ambitious and regard work as a way of life.—**Jerry Tiu**, *chair of Mega Publishing Group*

2. Filipino-Chinese businessmen are quick to spot opportunities and threats and are equally quick to deal with them —**Johnlu Koa**, *founder, French Baker Inc.*

3. The Chinese are thrifty, hardworking and focused. The concept of "*guanxi*" or connection/relationship, also works in any Chinese business society and is the backbone of many successful enterprises. Foresight and spunk also inspire the entrepreneurial spirit in every Chinese individual—**Willy Ocier**, *Belle Corp.*

4. The Chinese are good because they don't mind gaining a small profit as long as it is sustainable and there is volume.—**Pacita Uyboco Juan**, *Figaro Coffee Corp.*

5. My father always said that we should be persevering, frugal, hardworking and trustworthy. We were trained to faithfully pay what we owe to creditors or suppliers, follow whatever terms we commit to clients and uphold quality standards of goods.—**Steven Ching**, *owner of Robby Rabbit, first Filipino-created cartoon now being used abroad*

6. Ancient Chinese adage: "Knowledge is an inexhaustible mine." Chinese culture puts strong emphasis on education, quest for knowledge plus initiative for innovation.—**Jerry Angping**, *chair and CEO, Angping Securities Inc.*

7. The Chinese are good in business because they are taught since childhood to value hard work and money.—**Wilson Sy**, *fund manager Philequity*

[illegible]

Figure It Out

Jim Guiao Punzalan

1.5: Percentage of Filipino-Chinese out of total Philippine population

1.3 billion: Current population of China

9th century: Period when the Chinese first arrived in the Philippines

$4 billion: Net worth of Henry Sy, the wealthiest Filipino-Chinese businessman

1959, 1971, 1983, 1995: Recent Years of the Pig

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Text and photograph by Margaux Salcedo

Where Chinese also means chic

Gone are the days when Chinese restaurants meant family places where a red tablecloth, big servings and high-pitched cackling are to be expected. Today, elegance is turning up on the menu

Photo courtesy of Hyatt

"Residential dining" at Li Li's

WHEN I was younger, I hated Chinese food. I associated it with big family gatherings, Star Margarine rice (which I now know is Yang Chow Fried Rice) and pork. I dreaded approaching the big round tables with either red or green mantles, the Lazy Susan, and the waitresses in mini skirts and stockings. The gatherings were happy but not hip; full of cheer but no chic. Chinese restaurants were a place for family, not friends, and if a guy ever brought me to a Chinese restaurant for a date... well, it would be his last.

That was back then. Now that I analyze food for a living, I have a much deeper appreciation of Chinese cuisine. I am fascinated by its extensive history and amazed by the play on flavors and styles. Even better, now that I am more exposed, I have come across Chinese restaurants that are as hip and happening as they are happy. And if a gentleman ever introduced me to places like these, well, I would be pretty impressed.

The restaurant that is top of mind when it comes to being edgy and hip is Singapore's The Majestic. Located in the Majestic Hotel in Singapore's Chinatown, this is one Chinese restaurant that exudes chic.

For one, the interiors are smashing. The green and brown hues, along with a huge wooden sculpture of what looks like a Buddhist in a crucified position on the wall facing the entrance gives the place a feel of a zen sanctuary, making you want to speak in hushed tones, instead of the usual loud cackles and talk that are often associated with Chinese restaurants. The lights are not bright at all and in a playfully naughty way, the designer has made the sun a source of light for this restaurant via windows on the ceiling that show the bottom of a second floor pool. (So don't be surprised to catch a glimpse of someone managing a backstroke as you enjoy your noodle soup.)

Even better, the food meets the hotel's vision for edgy and hip. Chef Yong Bing Ngen does an amazing job in kicking in some hip to traditional Cantonese cuisine. He has an appetizer that combines pan-seared *foie gras* with Peking duck which is then paired off with a crispy wasabi prawn. It sounds like a weird combination, like he threw in everything but the soy sauce to make this appetizer, but like Picasso's synthetic cubism, somehow the collage works, and brilliantly.

Most impressive, though, is the fact that this Chinese restaurant has its very own sommelier, Kenneth Au. He is an enthusiastic little man, clearly excited by the subject of spirits and paired every dish we had with a new bottle, explaining why this French/Australian/African red or white went best with Chef Yong's scallops or duck or such. It was very impressive and heaps of fun.

Another happening Chinese restaurant of note is Hong Kong's Shui Hu Ju in Central. With no English signage out front, this restaurant is popular by word of mouth among Hong Kong's elegantly dressed crowd. Full even on a Monday night, it gives off a New York vibe with its dark interiors and tables placed strategically to maximize such a small space. Each table also has its drawer from which you can draw your own table napkins and toothpicks, which I found to be a very nice touch. The cuisine is mostly Szechuan but every dish is fantastic. Best for me were the Wok Fried Scallops in Sweet and Garlic Sauce and the Fried Bean Thread Sheets with Crab Roe and Salty Egg Yoke (yes, part of its charm is the English on the menu—you know they meant yolk).

In the Philippines, my recent find is Li Li at the Hyatt Hotel in Manila. Time stands still when you dine at this elegant restaurant, which is supposed to resemble the residence of Li Li herself, a popular Chinese society lady who impressed one of the executives of the Hyatt so much, he insisted on naming the restaurant after her. The layout accommodates what they call residential dining so, like Li Li's home, there is a "wine cellar," a "tearoom," a "library," a "drawing room" and "children's rooms" which are all private function rooms that may be closed for private dinners. The lights, temperature and music in these individual rooms may be adjusted to the customers' preference, unlike other restaurants where function rooms maintain centralized sounds and air conditioning. Meanwhile the menu goes back to basics, offering straightforward Cantonese cuisine that is presented without garnishes or gimmicks. F&B Director William Yuen wittily explained, "We don't do fusion. Sometimes fusion leads to confusion." Instead, their five chefs, including a dimsum chef, who hail from China and Hong Kong, focus on using the best ingredients (ducks are imported from China) and the best kitchen tools and equipment to present Cantonese cooking in its original form. They also have an amazing tea selection, which you may enjoy kung fu style, i.e. "with much effort," employing an elaborate presentation using very small teapots that significantly affect your tea appreciation.

Restaurants like these have altered my perception and appreciation of Chinese cuisine forever. Although I will always have fun memories that tend to associate Chinese restaurants with red on white tablecloths, high-pitched cackling, and food showered with MSG, places like Li Li show that the Chinese also own an elegance that is elaborate, and a culture that speaks of class. •

The Majestic, New Majestic Hotel, 31-37 Bukit Pasoh Road, Singapore, 6511 4718; Shui Hu Ju, 68 Peel Street, Central, Hong Kong, 852 2869 6927; Li Li at the Hyatt Hotel in Manila, Pedro Gil cor. MH del Pilar, tel. 245-1234

Eat Well and Prosper: 12 Auspicious Foods

The Spring Festival or the Chinese New Year is a traditional time for feasting with family and friends. Of course, food plays an important role in the festivities and dinners tend to be very elaborate, involving tables laden with auspicious foods.

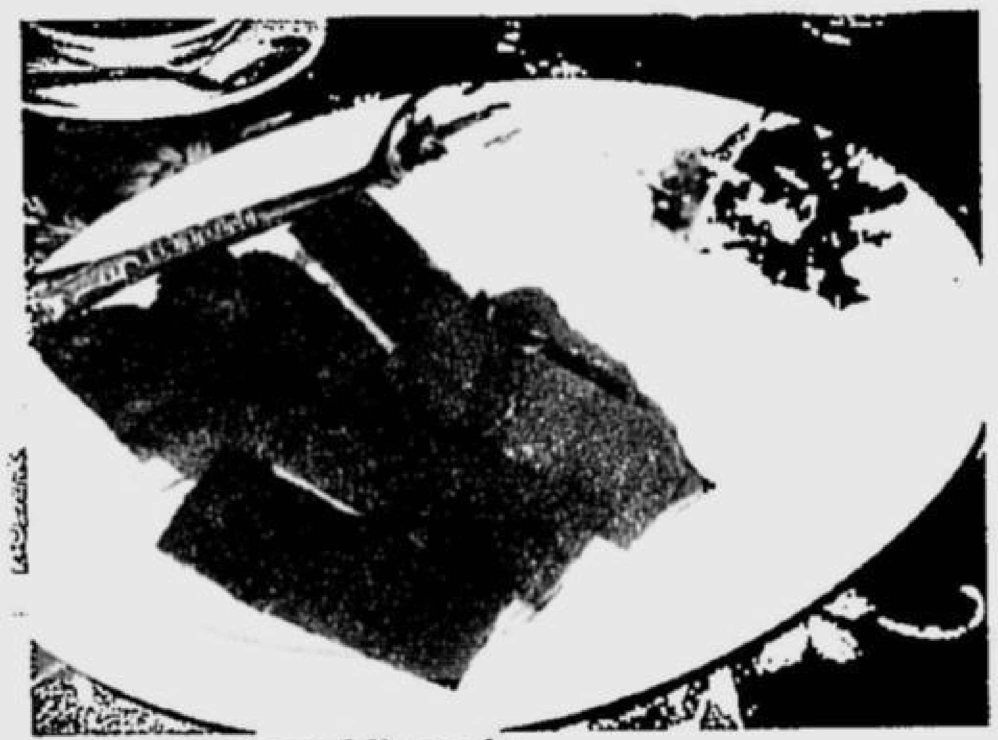
Some of the more popular lucky dishes are:

1. ***Nian gao***, a sticky rice pudding cake which is said to make people "advance toward higher positions"
2. **Dumplings**, which promise wealth and prosperity
3. **Noodles**, which symbolize longevity
4. **Oysters**, which symbolize receptivity to good fortune
5. **Seaweed**, which represents good luck
6. **Lettuce**, which represents prosperity
7. A **whole fish**, which represents abundance and togetherness.

Many families eat these at the midnight "reunion dinner" to symbolize a state of wealth at the changing of the years. Some cooks will hide a clean coin in one of the dishes for the most lucky person to find.

These days, various hotels and restaurants are offering set menus for the Spring Festival. The Mandarin Oriental's Tin Hau, where the cooking is always impeccable, is offering a set menu for as small a crowd as two. Some lucky and festive dishes being offered:

1. **Eight Treasure Shark's Fin Soup.** This delicacy is commonly served as part of a Chinese feast, as a symbol of wealth and prestige. Appreciated for its textural quality and the tedious process employed to achieve such texture, shark's fin soup is usually brought out only on special occasions because of its high price, which would supposedly impress guests. Sometimes you'd have to pay as much as US$50 for a bowl of this soup, depending on the quality and size of the fin.



Barbecued suckling pig

2. **Suckling Pig.** The pig, being a mild-tempered, worry-free animal, symbolizes good luck. Since 2007 is the year of the Chinese Red Fire Pig, you must have some pork to usher in loads of good luck.

3. **Deep-fried boneless chicken stuffed with minced pork and shrimp mousse**. Chicken represents wealth and must be presented with its head, tail and feet to indicate accomplishment.

4. **Braised green vegetables with sea cucumber and Chinese mushrooms.** The first day of the Chinese New Year is vegetarian, possibly to counteract the effects of the previous night's excessive feasting. The choice of vegetables may include exotic types of mushrooms, bamboo shoots and bean sprouts. Vegetables are also considered fortuitous for garnering good karma by refraining from eating anything that has been killed.

5. ***Tikoy***
No Chinese New Year is complete without *tikoy*. At the Mandarin, this sweet sticky staple is carved into the shape of a fish for good luck.

Tin Hau, Mandarin Oriental, Makati Avenue. 750-8888 ext 2633. mandarinoriental.com. Tin Hau's Chinese New Year set menu will run until the end of February. Private parties may be accommodated.

her. The layout accommodates what they call residential dining so, like Li Li's home, there is a "wine cellar," a "tearoom," a "library," a "drawing room" and "children's rooms" which are all private function rooms that may be closed for private dinners. The lights, temperature and music in these individual rooms may be adjusted to the customers' preference, unlike other restaurants where function rooms maintain centralized sounds and air conditioning. Meanwhile the menu goes back to basics, offering straightforward Cantonese cuisine that is presented without garnishes or gimmicks. F&B Director William Yuen wittily explained, "We don't do fusion. Sometimes fusion leads to confusion." Instead, their five chefs, including a dimsum chef, who hail from China and Hong Kong, focus on using the best ingredients (ducks are imported from China) and the best kitchen tools and equipment to present Cantonese cooking in its original form. They also have an amazing tea selection, which you may enjoy kung fu style, i.e. "with much effort," employing an elaborate presentation using very small teapots that significantly affect your tea appreciation.

Restaurants like these have altered my perception and appreciation of Chinese cuisine forever. Although I will always have fun memories that tend to associate Chinese restaurants with red on white tablecloths, high-pitched cackling, and food showered with MSG, places like Li Li show that the Chinese also own an elegance that is elaborate, and a culture that speaks of class. •

The Majestic, New Majestic Hotel, 31-37 Bukit Pasoh Road, Singapore, 6511 4718; Shui Hu Ju, 68 Peel Street, Central, Hong Kong, 852 2869 6927; Li Li at the Hyatt Hotel in Manila, Pedro Gil cor. MH del Pilar, tel. 245-1234

Eat Well and Prosper: 12 Auspicious Foods

The Spring Festival or the Chinese New Year is a traditional time for feasting with family and friends. Of course, food plays an important role in the festivities and dinners tend to be very elaborate, involving tables laden with auspicious foods.

Some of the more popular lucky dishes are:

1. ***Nian gao***, a sticky rice pudding cake which is said to make people "advance toward higher positions"
2. **Dumplings**, which promise wealth and prosperity
3. **Noodles**, which symbolize longevity
4. **Oysters**, which symbolize receptivity to good fortune
5. **Seaweed**, which represents good luck
6. **Lettuce**, which represents prosperity
7. A **whole fish**, which represents abundance and togetherness.

Many families eat these at the midnight "reunion dinner" to symbolize a state of wealth at the changing of the years. Some cooks will hide a clean coin in one of the dishes for the most lucky person to find.

These days, various hotels and restaurants are offering set menus for the Spring Festival. The Mandarin Oriental's Tin Hau, where the cooking is always impeccable, is offering a set menu for as small a crowd as two. Some lucky and festive dishes being offered:

1. **Eight Treasure Shark's Fin Soup.** This delicacy is commonly served as part of a Chinese feast, as a symbol of wealth and prestige. Appreciated for its textural quality and the tedious process employed to achieve such texture, shark's fin soup is usually brought out only on special occasions because of its high price, which would supposedly impress guests. Sometimes you'd have to pay as much as US$50 for a bowl of this soup, depending on the quality and size of the fin.

Barbecued suckling pig

2. **Suckling Pig.** The pig, being a mild-tempered, worry-free animal, symbolizes good luck. Since 2007 is the year of the Chinese Red Fire Pig, you must have some pork to usher in loads of good luck.

3. **Deep-fried boneless chicken stuffed with minced pork and shrimp mousse**. Chicken represents wealth and must be presented with its head, tail and feet to indicate accomplishment.

4. **Braised green vegetables with sea cucumber and Chinese mushrooms.** The first day of the Chinese New Year is vegetarian, possibly to counteract the effects of the previous night's excessive feasting. The choice of vegetables may include exotic types of mushrooms, bamboo shoots and bean sprouts. Vegetables are also considered fortuitous for garnering good karma by refraining from eating anything that has been killed.

5. ***Tikoy***
No Chinese New Year is complete without *tikoy*. At the Mandarin, this sweet sticky staple is carved into the shape of a fish for good luck.

Tin Hau, Mandarin Oriental, Makati Avenue. 750-8888 ext 2633. mandarinoriental.com. Tin Hau's Chinese New Year set menu will run until the end of February. Private parties may be accommodated.

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

By Jasmine W. Payo
Photographs by Ryan Lim

Getting a kick out of a family sport

The Go household can easily field a family member in taekwondo's different weight divisions, from Tshomlee Go's father to his mom and brother. With over a hundred medals under his black belt, this former basketball whiz vows to continue the tradition

TSHOMLEE Go would have wanted to be a Yao Ming, the Chinese giant who put Asia on the world basketball map.

As a varsity player in Pasay Chung-Hua High School, the 5'9" Go harbored the same cage dreams of most Pinoys—or in this case, Filipino-Chinese-kids. "I played point guard," shares Go. "I joined both our basketball and taekwondo varsity teams, but I like basketball more. I used to think if I grow to be a six-footer, I'll go on with basketball."

But while Go's on-court speed started accelerating, his growth spurt began stalling. So the talented teen decided to cross over to his next best sport. "I didn't grow any taller, so I just focused on taekwondo. I gave up basketball after high school."

It was a decision Go's family didn't mind. After all, his is a household that can field bets in this martial art sport's different weight divisions.

"Even my mom knows taekwondo, but she does it for exercise," says Go.

His father, Tomas, was a national team member in the 1980s, while his older brother, Jefferthom, was a Southeast Asian Games gold medalist. "When my brother won the SEA Games gold, I thought I wanted to win a medal too. That's when I started training every day. I competed in local tournaments and then joined the national developmental pool."

With "almost a hundred" medals under his black belt, Go still claims that his tournament campaigns can turn around as quickly as a roundhouse kick. "In 2003, I qualified for the Olympics in the World Qualifier in France. I thought I was in very good condition," says the 26-year-old jin.

Gunning for another try at the Olympics

Go's winning form

"From France, I went straight to Vietnam for the 2003 SEA Games. But I lost my first match and even had a black eye. It was heartbreaking. I went from being very happy to feeling very low. I couldn't accept it." He soon kicked out all the negative emotions to focus on the world's biggest sports event. The discipline paid off when he reached the Round of 16 in the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece. His performance, as well as that of the rest of the national taekwondo bets, turned out to be among the highlights of the Philippine contingent's gallant Olympic campaign.

"It's the most prestigious thing, so even if we didn't win, I would never forget that experience. I was happy just to qualify in the Olympics."
The next couple of years rolled out more auspicious results for the bantamweight ace. Go hooked a gold in the 2005 SEA Games in Manila, followed by a silver in the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

"That SEA Games was memorable because I was so happy that I ran to my parents, my *lola* and relatives (in the gallery)," he laughs. "As for the Asian Games, I really prepared for that. I just fell short (of winning the gold), but it's an improvement from my bronze in the 2002 Asian Games."

A lot of sacrifices, of course, come with every achievement. Go confesses he wasn't the stereotypical number-crunching Chinese whiz in school. "Only my name is Chinese," he jokes. "The only thing I liked in math was algebra. I didn't like trigo (trigonometry), stat (statistics). But my parents didn't pressure me to become an honor student. As long as I pass my subjects, it's okay with them."

(continued on page 12)

By Joy Rojas

A Career Makeover Saved Her Life

Her parents had objected, but Barbi Chan decided to shift careers after six years in the family's construction business. It proved to be an excellent decision for this now sought-after make-up artist who had once contemplated suicide after a failed marriage

IN DECEMBER 2005, make-up artist Barbara Jones Chan, then on the verge of ending her life, wrote a list of all the things she wanted for herself in 2006. Her number one priority: To never be miserable again.

"I made a pact with God," Barbi says over coffee one afternoon. "I said, 'God, this is it. Whether you like it or not, I'm not going to be miserable again. I've had my share of tearful nights and contemplating suicide. Enough! I deserve to be happy. It was really a conscious decision."

As 2006 rolled in, her conscious decision would become her destiny. Professionally, this was the year cosmetics giant Maybelline appointed her as its official and first-ever Asian make-up artist. The gig brought her to New York where she underwent a one-on-one training session with Maybelline maven Pamela Taylor and met with the company's global expert Troy Surratt. "I was so in awe, *gusto kong lumuhod sa harap niya* (I wanted to worship him)!" she laughs.

It was also the year that Barbi broke into television and TV ads. The make-up artist for rapper Jay-R's Colgate commercial and Palmolive shampoo star endorsers Iya Villania and KC Concepcion was part of the team that prepped the cast of "Pinoy Dream Academy" for their close-ups.

As for her personal life, the worst appears to be over for Barbi, whose difficult marriage saw her spiral into a serious depression. Through constant prayers, the Christian who began attending Victory Church services two years ago has learned to forgive her ex-husband, "because it was the only way I could move on." With an annulment underway, she's at that stage in her life where she sees the wisdom, the necessity even, behind her devastating experience. "I wouldn't change a thing," she says of her painful past. "If this didn't happen, then I wouldn't know my worth and capacity as a woman."

Barbi: Making a leap of faith

Happiness and peace were definitely due Barbi, the eldest of four children and the daughter of pure Chinese parents. Born in Manila, she lived the typical Chinoy life. She studied elementary and high school in traditional Chinese schools, finished a four-year course (Mass Communications) at the University of Santo Tomas, worked in the family's construction business for six years and married a fellow Chinoy, her boyfriend of five years.

Through it all, Barbi was an emotional wreck. Unfulfilled in the family business, which she joined "against my will," she set her sights on studying medicine or law, and had in fact passed the entrance exams at Ateneo de Manila University and San Sebastian College. Her parents, however, discouraged her from taking courses that were too long. "I told them, I'll do construction for a while then do my own thing. But I didn't know what my own thing was."

To make matters worse, her marriage began to fall apart. If she spared family and friends from the gory details, it was partly because "I didn't want to burden anyone with my problems," and partly because, well, it was the Chinoy

(continued on page 12)

By Eric S. Caruncho

Taking Pride in Partying

Stephen Ku considers himself lucky. His parents may have been traditional, but they supported his venture into untested waters- -Eventscape, an events management group

FOR Stephen Ku, being Chinoy means having the best of both worlds.

"At the end of the day, I feel very blessed because I get exposed to both cultures, and when you're exposed to two cultures, you can get the best out of both," says the 30-year-old Ku, who is marketing director of Eventscape Manila Inc., one of the largest events companies in the business.

"It's really a matter of being very discerning as to what traits you want to imbibe, and what traits you don't want from both cultures," he says.

"In my case, from Chinese culture comes being thrifty, not counting your chickens before they are hatched, living within your means, being very simple and practical. From the Filipino side comes being hospitable, having respect for your elders, *pakikisama* and *utang na loob* (cultivating good relations and having a sense of gratitude)."

In a way, Ku has escaped the fate of many young Chinoys who come from overly strict and traditional families—that of being corralled into the family business when they'd rather be doing something else.

"My family was really very traditional," he says. "I grew up in Baguio City, and my dad was in all types of businesses—restaurants, bars, appliance stores. My dad created the business and my mom ran it—very traditional, very Chinoy."

In fact, he recalls that his parents were set up in what is called *kai xiao*, an arranged marriage according to old Chinese customs. They were also traditional enough to observe Chinese funeral traditions for Ku's grandparents, first-generation immigrants to the Philippines, such as wearing the mourning clothes and burning paper money.

Miguel Ulindo

Ku: Getting the best of both Filipino and Chinese cultures

"But I was very fortunate in that even if my parents grew up traditionally, they were very supportive of our interests even if these were not traditional. Growing up in that kind of environment made me well rounded."

The Ku family moved in 1986 to Manila, where Stephen enrolled at De La Salle University and eventually graduated with a double major in Communication Arts and Marketing Management in 1992. In typical industrious Chinoy fashion, he also became student council president on top of being a working student.

"From college I always wanted to go into untested waters," he says.

His career path became clear when, as student council president, he organized a number of events to raise funds for the student government, and to earn extra income on the side. He soon realized that this was something he could enjoy doing, and be good at.

"Normally Chinoys would go into sales or retail," he says. "Organizing events was a field that I consciously pursued because I believed that there should be no stereotypes. But part of it was also passion—I liked to do things that were fun, I didn't want to be stuck in a 9-to-5 job. After college I was supposed to join Procter & Gamble, but instead I joined a band. I used to sing for Fat Session professionally for four years before going full blown into events. So it's really a different career path that I chose."

Together with friends from the De La Salle student government, he formed Wishcraft shortly after graduating. It was one of the first events companies in what was then still an emerging industry. Organizing promotional events used to be the territory of advertising agencies before specialized events companies took over the business.

A year later, Ku left to be on his own, forming Eventscape Manila Inc.

"We've been in the business for 13 years. We started doing auctions, now we do a lot of lifestyle events. We are proud to be servicing clients like Motorola, Jose Cuervo, Smirnoff Vodka, Ayala Land, Ford Philippines—a lot of the top companies."

On the side, Ku also began a profitable sideline in club promotions. "Club promotions was another field that was in its infancy stage at the time. We started handling V Bar, Temple, Dish, and now I'm handling Embassy."

(continued on page 15)

By Joy Rojas

In Her Own Fashion

Thanks to a radical career shift, Debbie Co realized she didn't just like shopping for clothes—she could actually make them, too

Rudy Esperas

Co at her atelier in Makati: "Blessed"

WHEN Debbie Co announced to her parents that she was going to pursue a career in fashion design, the reaction was anything but enthusiastic. "Kinda off" is more like it. After all, Debbie, an industrial engineering graduate from De La Salle University, was already employed at Nestle Philippines, handling the company's inter-market supplies, production schedules and food services for two-and-a-half years.

"But I wasn't happy with what I was doing," admits Debbie who also briefly joined her family's raw materials trading business. Fashion seemed more her calling, at least as far as shopping for clothes and dressing up were concerned. Nevertheless, she signed up for one subject in a two-year fashion design course offered at La Salle College International in February 2005. "Just to check if I was interested."

Turns out, she was more than interested—she was hooked. Debbie, who created feminine, one-of-a-kind outfits that she consigned at chic boutiques like Ishq and Solea, left La Salle to study an intensive fashion design course in London's Central St. Martins. In late 2005, she flew back to the Philippines and set up her atelier on the second floor of the Jupiter Place building, in Jupiter Street, Makati. Focusing still on limited classics with a twist, she also sells her stylish pieces in The Ramp, at Edsa Shangri-La's Mall's Crossings Department Store.

As a woman with her own company, Debbie thinks she runs her business differently from her clan's long-time trading venture. Whereas her relatives, traditional Chinese, are "conservative," she tends to be "straightforward about what I want. I can be strict," she says. "I make sure my staff realizes what I need." It helped that she was exposed to IE (information and education) and used to work at Nestle Philippines. Last year, she was the epitome of multi-tasking, overseeing operations in her shop while meeting with clients and remaining hands-on with her creations. Things are a little less frenetic now, what with assistance from her team of 15. Still, Debbie can only look back at 2006 and sigh. "A lot of people think designing is easy. But it's not."

It also helped that she is fluent in Fookien and Mandarin; she learned the latter while vacationing in Beijing. "I thought it would give me an advantage." True enough, whenever Debbie is in countries like Hong Kong, "I tend to get better deals and treatment because I speak the language." Yes, she does have a lot of Chinoy clients, but Debbie says her customers span the spectrum, and are as colorful and unique as her creations.

Clients of the 29-year-old designer have much to look forward to in 2007. Debbie, who continues to churn out new, elegant and sophisticated designs every week, is keen on developing her bridal wear, a specialty she started offering last year. She'd also like to take part in this year's edition of Philippine Fashion Week. "It's fun, I can design forever. I feel blessed doing something that I really like."

Her parents are equally pleased. They've taken to collecting the magazines and newspapers with articles on their daughter. "And I also make clothes for my mom," Debbie says with a smile. "She's always complaining that she's the last!" •

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			2		5			
1		3				2		9
	7						6	
		4		9		1		
		6		3		9		
	5						3	
7		2				5		8
			4		3			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc

2-18

Answer to previous puzzle

1	3	8	6	9	7	4	2	5
2	6	7	1	5	4	8	9	3
4	9	5	2	8	3	6	1	7
5	1	3	8	7	9	2	6	4
9	7	4	5	2	6	1	3	8
6	8	2	3	4	1	5	7	9
8	4	1	7	3	2	9	5	6
3	5	6	9	1	8	7	4	2
7	2	9	4	6	5	3	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*
sim@inquirer.com.ph

Publisher: Leica R. Carpo
Managing Editor: Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Associate Editor: Ruel S. De Vera
Staff Writer: Eric S. Caruncho
Graphic Consultant: Paolo Viloria
Editorial Assistant: Sharon M. Felipe
Advertising and Sales Officer: Mylene de Jesus
Product Manager: Ged S. Ventura

Cover: Sophia Dominique Montegrande
Photograph: Jim Guiao Punzalan
Pig outfit by Kate Torralba
Stuffed toys from Baby Co., Rockwell
Volume 20 No. 51 February 18, 2007
ISSN 0116-232X

(from page 8)

By the time he enrolled as an Education student at the University of Santo Tomas, Go had perfected the juggling act. "Thank God, I didn't fail. There were times I would feel so tired from training and going to school that I'd want to give up on my studies. But I really tried my best to finish my (course)."

Now that he's got his diploma, Go has decided to train full time with the national team and teach basic taekwondo lessons weekends at the Malate Catholic School and St. Mary's Academy. "There are times that I feel burned out. I don't want to see the gym and I don't want to see the kick pad. *Pero hindi maiwasan, hahanapin din ng katawan mo* (You can't ignore it. Your body misses it)."

And there's a reason for the itch.

"*Hihirit pa ko ng isang* Olympics (I'd like to qualify for one more Olympics)," says Go. •

A Career Makeover Saved Her Life (from page 9)

Barbi in action

thing to do. "That's what isn't nice about the Chinese community. It's a very image-conscious society; people always try to pretend that everything's okay." To her credit, she tried to make it work "because I didn't want a broken marriage," but any attempts to reconcile were short-lived. "My personal life may be in a shambles," she consoled herself then, "but at least I have something left that's mine—my career."

Indeed, make-up saved whatever sanity and self-confidence she had left. Barbi, who always enjoyed buying and using cosmetics, paid for a trip to the States to study a basic two-month course in the Los Angeles School of Make-up. She later followed that up with airbrushing lessons at LA's pioneering Dinair Airbrush Institute, and most recently, completed advanced airbrush and advanced fashion make-up programs in New York. Everyone at home objected, of course ("We put her through four years of college so she could become a beautician?" asked her father), but for the first time, Barbi was doing exactly what she wanted to do.

And people liked what she was doing. With nothing but pictures from her first course to show, she was booked on the spot by the editors of Preview magazine. Word about her work spread: almost four years since making what she calls a leap of faith, Barbi is "busy every day," doing make-up for a slew of glossy magazines, fashion shows and commercials on the weekdays. Her weekends, meanwhile, are reserved for weddings.

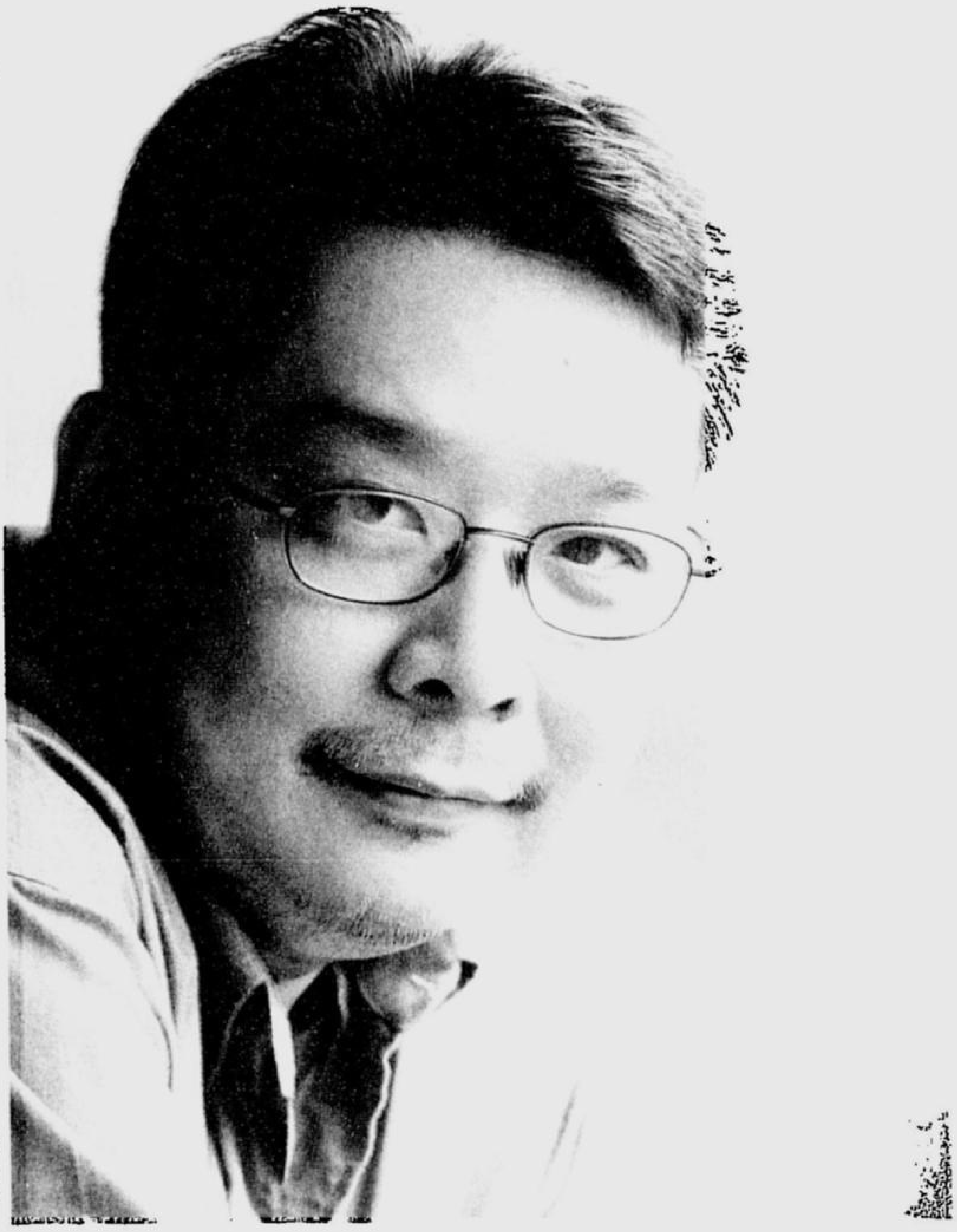
At 32, the woman who once courted thoughts of suicide is thrilled to be alive. In September 2005, she backpacked through Paris and Italy on her own, fulfilling a dream she had in happier times. She also welcomes the thought of marrying again, and having children in the future.

"Some people cling to something or somebody because they're afraid to start again," she reflects. "But nothing is permanent, and no one can make you happy but yourself and God." •

By Ruel S. De Vera

Opening the Book on Identity

Fictionist Charlson Ong has carved out a lifelong vocation of writing on Chinese-Filipino life, as exemplified by his shining new novel, "Banyaga"



Romy Homillada

Ong: "Identity is continually negotiated"

THERE is nothing at all stereotypical about Charlson Ong. The sleepy-eyed fictionist is always quick with a smile and a drink, but also easily the most recognizable among the Chinese-Filipino writers because of his accomplishments and choice of subject matter.

His three short story collections—"Men of the East and Other Stories," "Women of Amkaw and Other Stories," "Conversion and Other Fictions"—as well as his Philippine Centennial Literary Award-winning novel "Embarrassment of Riches," chronicle in outstandingly textured fashion the world of the Chinese Filipino. "I write about the experience because it is what I know best and most intimately," he explains.

But it is Ong's newest—and best—book that truly celebrates that experience. "*Banyaga*: A Song of War" from Anvil Publishing is a sweeping saga of three immigrants—Samuel Lee, Antonio Lim, and Hilario Ong Ah Puy—that spans the tumultuous decades from their arrival in the islands in the 1920s, all through the promise of the Commonwealth Era, the flames of the Second World War, the clanking uncertainty of the Marcos years, all the way to the arrival of the New Millennium. As the novel's title attests, this is a book about being a stranger, a foreigner, the Other, in a land that seeks to make you its own and vice versa. It is the story not only of the immigrants, but in a way, of all Filipinos. "*Banyaga*" is an epic read, boasting of the best in Ong's considerable arsenal.

Taking five years to construct his most ambitious work so far, Ong aimed for the moonlit skies with this particular project.

"With '*Banyaga*,' I want to write a version of Philippine history in the last decade from the viewpoint of the Chinese-Filipino. I think we haven't looked enough at our history as a people and as writers." Yet part of what makes Ong such a dynamic presence on the written page is that his heritage does not shackle him. He is simply one of the best Filipino—and not just Chinese-Filipino—fictionists today.

Born in Manila during the Year of the Rat in 1960, Charlson Lim Ong is one of three sons of the late Conrado Ong, who ran a petroleum concern, and Nenita, formerly a piano major at the University of Santo Tomas. "A lot of the stories in my fiction are derived from the experiences of my parents and grandparents on both sides," he explains. He rejects the idea of being raised as typically Chinese-Filipino, as he points out that "it is the idea of typical anything that I try to debunk in fiction writing as most fiction writers try to do."

Like his brothers, Ong attended Xavier School. "I did learn Mandarin Chinese in school. My grandmother was a folk Buddhist and we always

(continued on page 15)

By Joyce Ramirez
Photographs by Richie Castro

Not a sob story

Whip out your hankie as Julie Po-Shing recounts her rise from being a humble SM employee to being a successful entrepreneur. Chances are, that hankie comes from her sewing factory

HIGH on the rolling hills of Ayala Heights in Quezon City lies a collection of gargantuan mansions. This is a gated community where Julie Po Shing shares a home with husband Ramon Shing and their three children. The 60-year-old self-made accessories mogul who founded Blooming Handkerchiefs Inc. has certainly gone a long way from being a mere employee of SM Malls some 30 years ago.

Today, her company's assets include the Italian label Armando Caruso, the Pierre Cardin label, and various licensed character product merchandise such as SpongeBob and Dora, DC Comics characters like Superman and Batman, and the popular Marvel character Spider-man.

Her life now is definitely worlds apart from her modest beginnings, admits Julie who was raised in a traditional Chinese setting with six siblings. Born to hardworking parents who managed a hardware shop in Binondo during the '60s, Julie went to school at Chiang Kai Shek College. She eventually found her first job at the old Fair Mart Department Store where she also met her future husband.

In 1973, Julie was hired as merchandiser at SM Makati, reporting directly to Henry Sy's wife, Felicidad. "I was responsible for choosing and buying all the accessory items at SM Makati," Julie recalls. "During that time, only SM Makati offered imported items, so people would approach me about purchasing matters. Later on, I discovered that the best option was for me to travel and buy all the items abroad because they were cheaper." With Mrs. Sy's approval and support, Julie soon found herself on her first flight to Hong Kong and Japan, where she faced her first real challenge.

"I was billeted at a Ginza hotel when I heard strange noises outside. Of course, I could not speak or understand a word they were saying so at first I tried to ignore them. But the noises grew louder and closer, so out of curiosity I opened the door. I saw people rushing out, and one looked at me and said in broken English, 'Get-out-now, fire!'

Handkerchiefs: Most popular accessories

"Immediately, I thought not of my life but of all the items I was responsible for, so I packed and grabbed anything within reach. I ended up carrying the items all the way to the safety of the ground floor."

Instead of being discouraged, Julie found that the incident fueled her passion to move forward in her job. "During my stint at SM, I discovered that handkerchiefs were the most popular accessories to buy and sell. There was another Caruso-labeled handkerchief brand in Japan that was very popular, and when I brought samples to Manila, the items sold out fast."

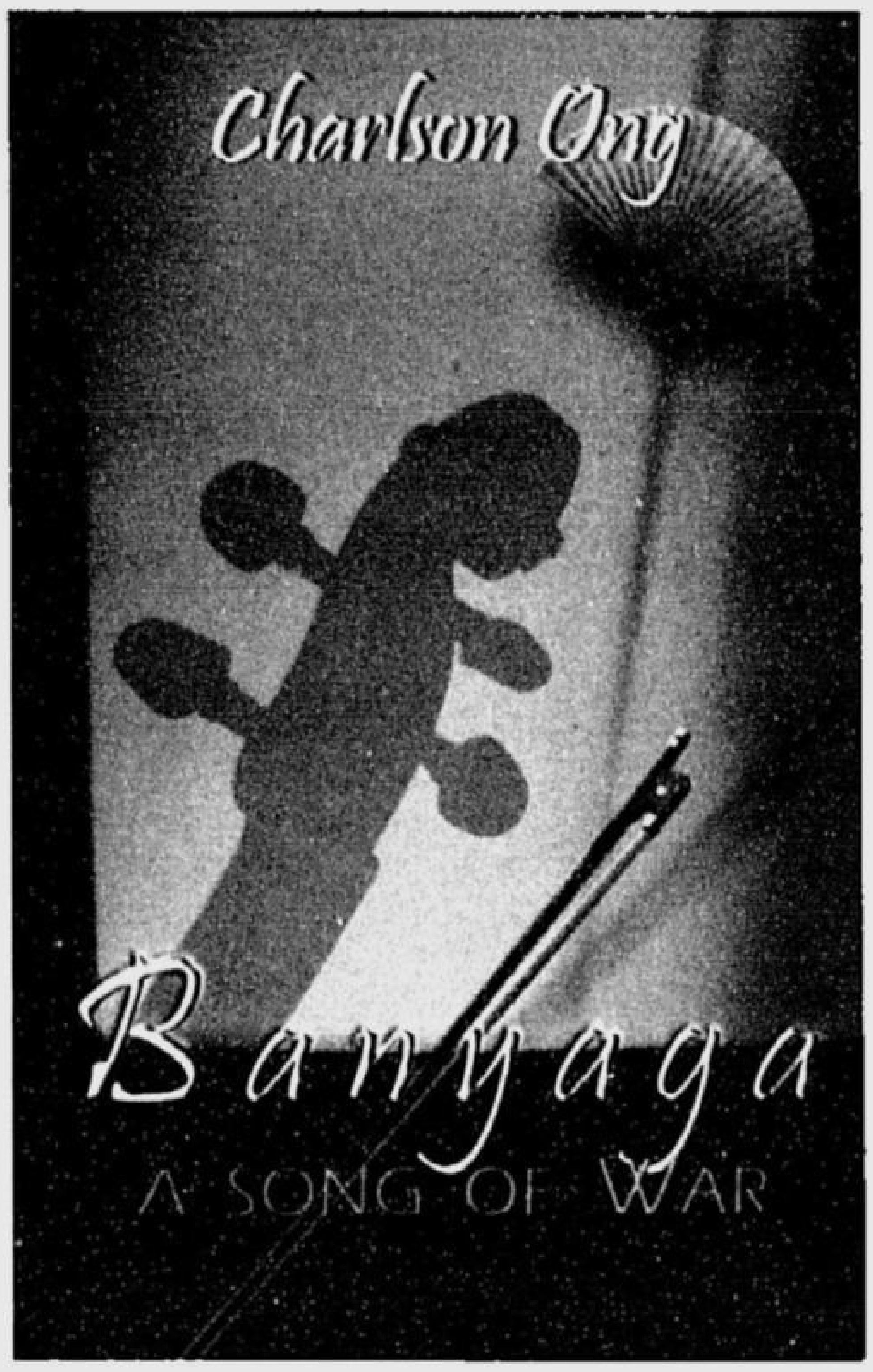
Julie's transition from SM employee to full-time entrepreneur began when she and her husband met a Japanese national, Tsuneo Nishio, who was active in accessories trading. To this day, they are good friends and trading partners. Explains Julie, "Mr. Nishio advised us to go full-time into the accessories manufacturing business and to manufacture the items locally so that we could provide jobs and help our fellow citizens," says Julie. The company, which was established in 1989, uses imported materials from Japan, with all the sewing and embroidery work done in the Philippines.

Managing your own business is a 24/7 job, says this entrepreneur. "The accessories industry is a big market. We manufacture and supply most of the leading handkerchief brands to all market channels."

Julie is understandably proud of her products' high quality. "We are the only company, particularly under the Armando Caruso brand, that uses 80 threadcount, considered the finest in the industry."

Being at the forefront of the latest designs and creations is also crucial, she says, as is trust."Trust is give-and-take. We work hard to ensure that we gain and deserve our client's and business partner's trust. At the same time, we expect others to respect the business relationship for us to trust them," says this shy, down-to-earth woman born in the Year of the Pig. •

Opening the Book on Identity (from page 13)



commemorate the death anniversaries of our forebears in a traditional manner." A fertile territory for his imagination and memory was Chinatown, though he was raised in Little Baguio in San Juan. "I often frequented Chinatown even as a boy so I know all the nooks and crannies there," Ong recalls. Growing up Chinese in the Philippines meant that many, but not all, Chinese-Filipinos had access to good resources and education, but there were different pressures as well. "There are expectations from family and community that may not always jive with your own desires. You just have to decide what's important for you as a person."

Ong went on to study Psychology at the University of the Philippines, where he is now senior lecturer for creative writing at the Department of English and Comparative Literature. Ong is also the resident fellow for fiction at the UP Institute of Creative Writing. Though he writes mostly from the Chinese-Filipino point of view, Ong does not consider himself a spokesperson or standard-bearer in any capacity. "There are people, mostly young, who have read me and will hopefully produce more literature on the community in the years ahead."

All those accolades form part of the tapestry of talent that has conjured "*Banyaga*" from stray wisps of wonder and the strands of memory hanging in the air. It is all about the question of identity, Ong concludes. "Often, identity is continually negotiated so I can't say for certain what Chinese-Filipino is. Every individual has to define that for himself." •

Pigging out on Chinoy books

IF you're hungry for more literary works or just plain interested on subjects dealing with the Chinese-Filipino among us, you can start with Charlson Ong's own books, "Men of the East and Other Stories," "Women of Am Kaw and Other Stories," "Embarrassment of Riches," and "*Banyaga*: A Song of War." But Ong himself recommends the following titles:

1. **"The Chinese in the Philippines"** by Alfonso Felix, Jr.

2. **"Chinese Filipinos"** edited by Clinton Palanca and published by the Chinese Studies Program of the Ateneo de Manila University.

3. **"Tsinoy"** published by KAISA

4. A forthcoming translation into Tagalog of a 1930s novel by Chinese writer Bai Ren set in the Philippines, translated by Joaquin Sy and published by the University of the Philippines Press.

5. **"Some Arrivals, Mostly Departures,"** Paul Stephen Lim's collection of short fiction

6. **"Intsik"** by Carol Hau

Taking Pride in Partying (from page 10)

Basically, partying for a living—about as far from the tried-and-true Chinoy path as possible. But Ku believes his heritage gives him an edge in this particular niche.

"I took up marketing and realized that it's true, Chinoys have a natural sense of business. Sometimes I don't even understand how I understand it, but I do. Probably it's cultural. When it comes to budgeting, in our field there are a lot of elements that you have to cost out and consider. Coming from a Chinoy background you really pay attention to details pertaining to budgets. Also it helps if you have a client who has some sort of Chinese lineage—you have a connection."

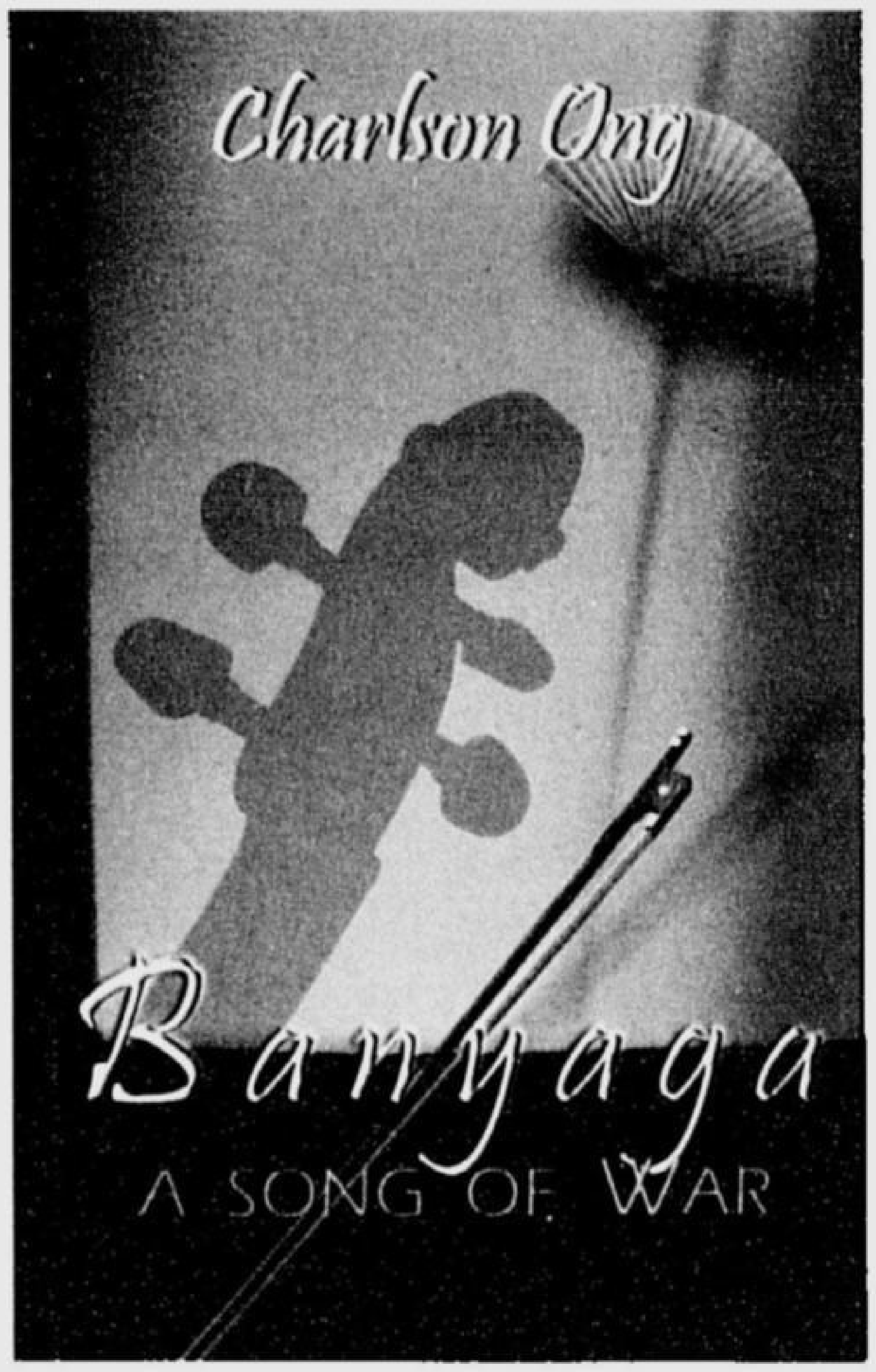
Like many young Chinoys, Ku believes that the present generation is forging their own identity different from that of their parents, yet still distinct from mainstream Filipino society.

"I'm very proud to say that Chinoys have broken out of their shell," he says. "My parents' generation was very scared to try out things that they really wanted to do because they were afraid of what their relatives would say, or what their parents would say. But now you notice a lot of Chinoys going into fields like the arts, advertising, stage performance—which are not traditional. Even sports. Before it was something unheard of. They'd say, *magbantay ka na lang ng tindahan* (just watch over our store). Now you see a lot of Chinoys even in the UAAP."

Although he admits that a lot of the negative stereotypes still persist, such as insularity, a certain bluntness of manner that can be perceived as rudeness, and holding on to superstition, Ku believes that the new generation of Chinoys will make their own mark.

"There is a conscious effort on the part of Chinoys to not be traditional, and yet still excel, in the same way that Pinoys in the States want to excel," he says. "You just constantly challenge yourself to be better." •

Opening the Book on Identity (from page 13)



commemorate the death anniversaries of our forebears in a traditional manner." A fertile territory for his imagination and memory was Chinatown, though he was raised in Little Baguio in San Juan. "I often frequented Chinatown even as a boy so I know all the nooks and crannies there," Ong recalls. Growing up Chinese in the Philippines meant that many, but not all, Chinese-Filipinos had access to good resources and education, but there were different pressures as well. "There are expectations from family and community that may not always jive with your own desires. You just have to decide what's important for you as a person."

Ong went on to study Psychology at the University of the Philippines, where he is now senior lecturer for creative writing at the Department of English and Comparative Literature. Ong is also the resident fellow for fiction at the UP Institute of Creative Writing. Though he writes mostly from the Chinese-Filipino point of view, Ong does not consider himself a spokesperson or standard-bearer in any capacity. "There are people, mostly young, who have read me and will hopefully produce more literature on the community in the years ahead."

All those accolades form part of the tapestry of talent that has conjured "*Banyaga*" from stray wisps of wonder and the strands of memory hanging in the air. It is all about the question of identity, Ong concludes. "Often, identity is continually negotiated so I can't say for certain what Chinese-Filipino is. Every individual has to define that for himself." •

Pigging out on Chinoy books

IF you're hungry for more literary works or just plain interested on subjects dealing with the Chinese-Filipino among us, you can start with Charlson Ong's own books, "Men of the East and Other Stories," "Women of Am Kaw and Other Stories," "Embarrassment of Riches," and "*Banyaga*: A Song of War." But Ong himself recommends the following titles:

1. "**The Chinese in the Philippines**" by Alfonso Felix, Jr.

2. "**Chinese Filipinos**" edited by Clinton Palanca and published by the Chinese Studies Program of the Ateneo de Manila University.

3. "**Tsinoy**" published by KAISA

4. A forthcoming translation into Tagalog of a 1930s novel by Chinese writer Bai Ren set in the Philippines, translated by Joaquin Sy and published by the University of the Philippines Press.

5. "**Some Arrivals, Mostly Departures,**" Paul Stephen Lim's collection of short fiction

6. "**Intsik**" by Carol Hau

Taking Pride in Partying from pag

Basically, partying for a living—about as far from the tried-and-true Chinoy path as possible. But Ku believes his heritage gives him an edge in this particular niche.

"I took up marketing and realized that it's true, Chinoys have a natural sense of business. Sometimes I don't even understand how I understand it, but I do. Probably it's cultural. When it comes to budgeting, in our field there are a lot of elements that you have to cost out and consider. Coming from a Chinoy background you really pay attention to details pertaining to budgets. Also it helps if you have a client who has some sort of Chinese lineage—you have a connection."

Like many young Chinoys, Ku believes that the present generation is forging their own identity different from that of their parents, yet still distinct from mainstream Filipino society.

"I'm very proud to say that Chinoys have broken out of their shell," he says. "My parents' generation was very scared to try out things that they really wanted to do because they were afraid of what their relatives would say, or what their parents would say. But now you notice a lot of Chinoys going into fields like the arts, advertising, stage performance—which are not traditional. Even sports. Before it was something unheard of. They'd say, *magbantay ka na lang ng tindahan* (just watch over our store). Now you see a lot of Chinoys even in the UAAP."

Although he admits that a lot of the negative stereotypes still persist, such as insularity, a certain bluntness of manner that can be perceived as rudeness, and holding on to superstition, Ku believes that the new generation of Chinoys will make their own mark.

"There is a conscious effort on the part of Chinoys to not be traditional, and yet still excel, in the same way that Pinoys in the States want to excel," he says. "You just constantly challenge yourself to be better." •

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

JOHN LLOYD CRUZ
Ingat!
Para safe,
Paracetamol
BIOGESIC®

Tulad ni John Lloyd, mahilig tayong mga pinoy na magpaalala ng “Ingat!” sa mga mahal natin. Kaso minsan, kahit anong ingat mo, nagkakasakit ka pa rin. Kaya pag sumakit ang ulo o nilagnat, ingat ka rin sa pagpili ng gamot.

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.